



HEKIMA JESUIT NEWSLETTER

Dr. John-Okoria
speaks!

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Gratitude to
outgoing Staff

Fifteen Ordained
Deacons

Hekima University
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Distinctive aspects
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Hekima
Celebrates 10
Years of Francis'
Papacy

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Biblical Plagues, Covid-19, and Ancient Near East Theologians

It is not uncommon, reading texts from the *Ancient Near East, to hear of Plagues. They take the forms of heavy rainfalls going on for a considerable long time; floods; earthquakes; mudslides; volcanoes; wildfires; droughts; famines; and pestilence.

In the eyes of the modern society, these might be seen as natural phenomena, inflicting damage such as disease on livestock and humans; causing havoc to the environment and infrastructure; and especially, the universe appearing visibly in tears. There is hardly a generation that does not witness disasters or at least hear of it from family members, or in some narrative form.

Sorting and re-reading and analyzing such narratives from the Ancient Near Eastern Literature, one discovers, not only a pattern, a similarity in most of these – but something surprisingly common! The phenomenon or crisis is inflicted on a culprit by a deity through his angel or prophet or priest as a punishment for crime or negligence, in all these ancient cultures.

Over the years scholars realize that a (biblical) theologian, in his redaction has either borrowed a narrative, or imposed a law of “causality and effect” on the stories. In some narratives a crisis can be resolved or abated by a religious act of appeasement.

This is very common in the Old Testament Scriptures. The theologians as re-tellers of religious stories, as writers and tradition bearers, or as biblical redactors of the deities (Yhwh and Ba'al for instance) were not at all left out of this manner of theologizing.

Even in our own times people wondered in similar ways, what the cause of the recent Covid-19 could have been. Today the search is more scientific than speculative, with less emphasis on the retributive dimension of justice.

Academic and religious activities continued at Hekima throughout the time

of Covid-19 – only partly restricted at peak moments; but certainly, never interrupted in any major way. For this we are grateful. The Newsletter testifies to our proper use of time during those months. Young Jesuits or Scholastics registered for the Summer Language Immersion and held at our Language Centre at Hekima will be arriving this month.

We are all glad however to witness the gradual weaning of the Virus activity and impact and casualties, in addition to the recent Declaration of the WHO (World Health Organization). And even as we read, dispersion of members of our HUC family (typical during the summer) has already begun – and, without the Corona health concerns and measures, notably questions of travel restrictions, wearing of masks, vaccines, tests and quarantines!

Now we may ask:

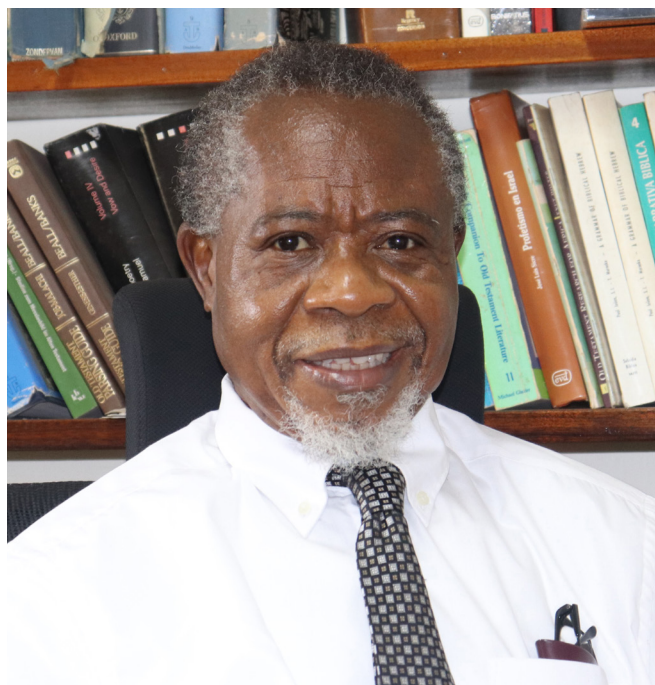
What lessons are there for us?

– scientific, religious, health, social, online / in-person, medical, travel, spiritual?

And we welcome everyone to this edition of our Newsletter! Read on! Read all!


*Ancient Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Arabia etc.

Hons. Prof. Dr. Chukwuemeka Orji, S.J.
HUC Communications Director



“Please be people of values (agaciro)!”

Principal tells Final Year Students



On the 28th April the College bid farewell to its third-year theology students as well as to those completing the MA in peace studies and international Relations during the last college Eucharistic celebrations of the academic year.

“To the third-year theology students and the second-year peace studies students, you came at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, you came as the Corona generation, you are now leaving this place when we are no longer afraid, go and tell the people, don’t be afraid!” The principal Dr. Marcel Uwineza, SJ said adding that it was even more wonderful as one of the third year-theology students Deacon Francis Aziza, SJ is coming back immediately to serve as the chief librarian.

Dr. Uwineza expressed that 95% of the faculty members are alumni of Hekima, therefore there is a sense of joy and pride that Hekima produces great people. He, therefore, urged the students who have completed their programs at Hekima to continue with their hard work out there because life demands it.

“In Rwanda where I come from, there is a saying that “agaciro ntikagira igicro” (value is priceless), if in you there is nothing to hold on to, you will be like something that people kick around. You

will be respected if you respect yourself, so please, be people of agaciro (values)!”

Dr. Uwineza pointed out that when he was a student here at Hekima, one of their lecturers used to say that if you do not write about yourself, your country, or your continent; you will be amazed at what people write about you, about your country, about your continent! “It is for this reason that I am always proud of the Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa because it puts down the history of Africa. Please as you go, write down your stories, and while at it, please tell the stories of Hekima University College; you will be amazed at the way you change the narrative!” he urged them.

Words of the Principal to HUC Recent Alumni: “Let your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. ... There will be times when making the next step will be scary. The crucial question is: what is the next right move? You do not have to know all the moves. You just need to know the right one.” Make a difference in someone’s life and that will fulfil your life. The value of your Jesuit education will be attained by your ability to give yourselves away to others. Remember agaciro ntikagira igicro (value has no price). Be men and women of Agaciro. May the Lord bless you!

Hekima University College Lenten Campaign Initiative

The spiritual commission of Hekima University College Students Association in collaboration with the Chaplain Rev. Dr. James Campbell initiated three activities for the 2023 Lenten Campaign. These three initiatives include a common opening prayer in all the classes from Ash Wednesday to Holy Wednesday, a collection of money during the weekly college Mass on Wednesday from Ash Wednesday to Wednesday of the Holy Week, as well as the collection of clothes, shoes, etc., during Lenten.

According to the coordinator of the HUCSA spiritual commission, Br. Jovic Kouepou, A.A., the three activities were a huge success.

"By the grace of God, the three activities went on perfectly. Thanks to the class representatives the prayer every morning before the commencement of our lessons has indeed helped us to deepen our spiritual journey during Lent." While thanking the Hekima family for their great generosity, Jovic who is a third-year theology student said that they received many bags of clothes and a carton of shoes.

"The total amount donated during the weekly college Mass was Kshs. 23,688. We are grateful to the Hekima Jesuit Community, which generously donated Kshs. 159 000 to our appeal. Our total collection, therefore, amounted to Kshs 181,888".

Following consultation, it was decided that the collections be directed to two different institutions. On Wednesday, April, 26, the money was used to purchase assorted foodstuff, detergents, and sanitary towels, which were donated to Prosperity Junior Center, an orphanage in Kangemi slums in Nairobi. The clothes and shoes, which were mainly for adults were donated to the Brothers of Charity in Kibera slums, Nairobi.

HUCSA greatly appreciated members of the spiritual commission which included Michael Sitati, SJ, (First Year Theology student), and Ricardo Nogueiro Sebastian, SJ, (Second Year Theology Student) for their time and commitment. They also thanked Rev. Dr. James Campbell, SJ and Rev. Dr. George Njeri Macharia, SJ (Dean of Students) for their accompaniment and support.



Frederick Buechner Awards 2023

For the last five years, the Frederick Buechner Foundation has been supporting Hekima University College, by giving cash prizes and book prizes to the final-year students deemed to be outstanding in both writing and preaching.

The Buechner Award to the best writers is therefore usually given to four students who have published in the Hekima Review, are exceptional in their writing skills, or have made contributions to other publications outside Hekima. The 2023 Frederick Buechner Awards for the best writers was therefore awarded to Fr. Ottakagu Paul Ikechukwu a second-year student of Masters in Peace Studies and International Relations, Deacon Francis Aziza, a Jesuit third-year theology student from Nigeria who has also been managing editor of Hekima Review, Br. Emmanuel Nyerere, a Pallotine third-year theology student from Malawi,

and Dominic Mbaeze, an Assumptionist third-year theology student from Nigeria. Like the awards for the best writers, The Buechner Award for the Best Preachers is also given to four students who have managed to evangelize to others through their words or actions or, both. This year's awardees included Sr. Anna-Grace Alum, who was recognized for her preaching in action through her service at the Hekima University College Students Association; Deacon Irene Ouedraogo, for his preaching on Easter Sunday. The other awardees in this category included Fr. Michel Ouedraogo who through his Homily during one of the Hekima College Weekly Mass gave alternative words of wisdom from the Jesuit perspective and Pascal Bihorubusa who has been at the service of his class as class representative for three years and has been using amazing



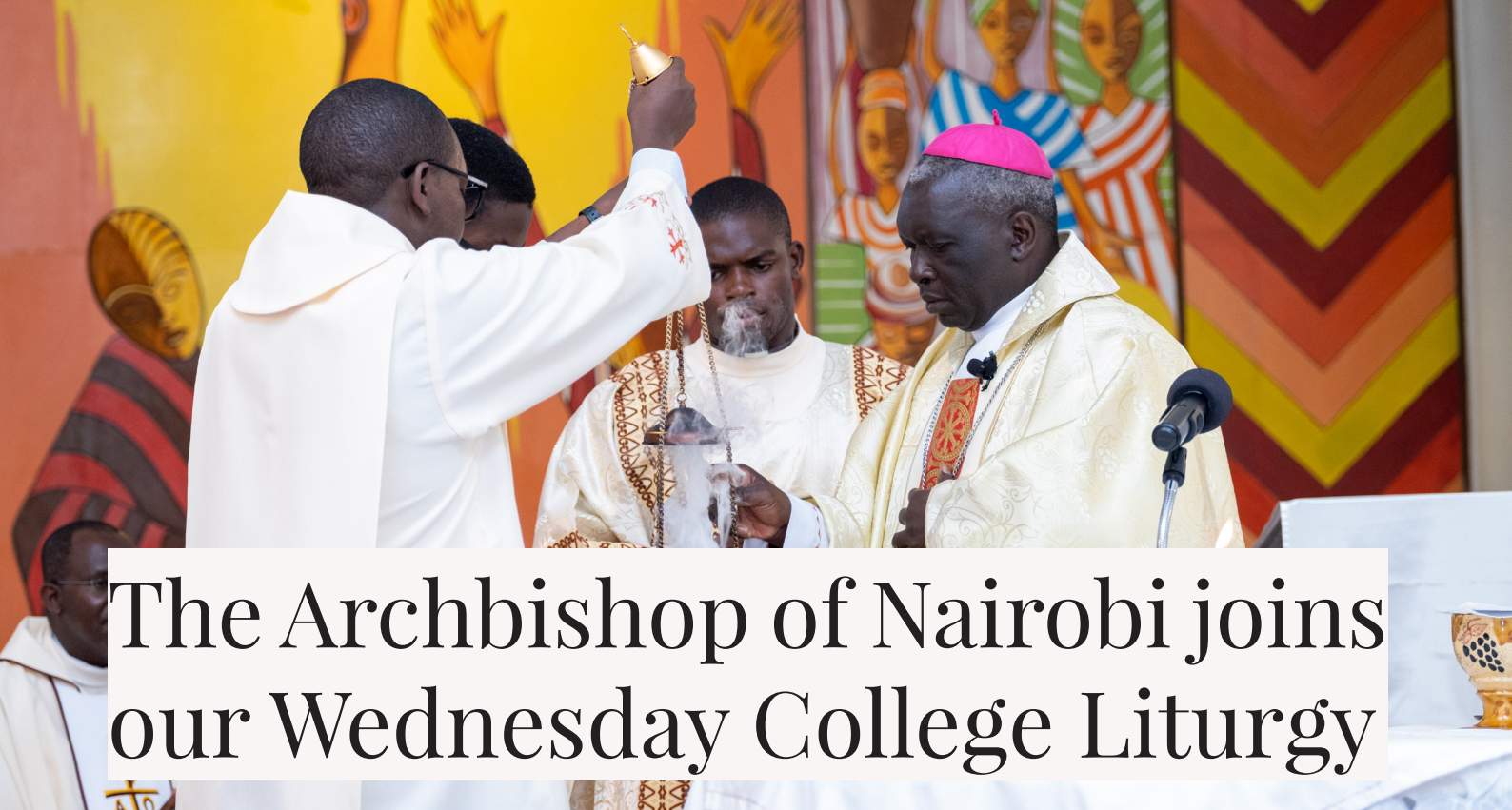
“Frederick Buechner was a Presbyterian minister who found his calling writing a prodigious quantity of novels, memoirs, and essays that explored the human condition from inspirational and often humorous religious perspectives.”

diplomacy to handle their class issues. The Prizes included a plaque from Frederick Buechner and Cash.

Speaking at the ceremony which took place on Friday, April, 28, Hekima’s outgoing Deputy Principal of Academic Affairs Prof Peter Knox, SJ said that it was tough choosing which student to award in the two categories because everyone was outstanding in some way. “We had to go round and round among the faculty, trying to determine who among the students was more deserving because unfortunately, we only have four prizes for each of the two categories,” Prof. Knox said.

According to New York Times, Frederick Buechner was a Presbyterian minister who never held a church pastorate but found his calling writing a prodigious quantity of novels, memoirs, and essays that explored the human condition from inspirational and often humorous religious perspectives. He died on August 15, 2022.





The Archbishop of Nairobi joins our Wednesday College Liturgy

Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Nairobi presided over the Hekima University College Mass on April 12.

In his homily, Archbishop Anyolo said that the Easter season is a time to search for ways in which God wants us to respond to his love in the various service where each one has been given a call.

"I am sure God wants you to serve him in the best way possible and I have come here to encourage you in this vocation, the Jesuit Vocation, so that as you put in a lot of effort in search of knowledge, also put it in your hearts and in your service to the people of God just as it has been the legacy of the Society up to today," he told the congregation.

The Principal of Hekima University College Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, SJ who welcomed the Archbishop expressed immense gratitude that the Archbishop in his busy schedule could dedicate some time to Hekima.

"In Rwanda where I come from, they say that if your house is hardly visited, you probably need to increase your kitchen budget or most likely fire your cooks. Your Grace, your coming here is a testimony that our cooking at Hekima is good and we are most delighted that you have joined us today," Father Marcel expressed adding that Hekima College is

like a mustard seed that is talked about in the Gospels, very small but quite significant.

"For nearly 40 years, Hekima College has helped and contributed to the local church especially here in Nairobi but also to the continental church and the global church. We have had a few people who have been appointed archbishops and bishops as well as some key individuals serving in key positions at various places who are products of this Hekima. We also have wonderful men and women who are contributing to society across the continent and the globe, for this we are most grateful," Father Marcel indicated even as he acknowledged the fact that there is always room for improvement and that despite Hekima being a shining star, the institution is ever ready for improvement.

The Archbishop at the end of the Eucharistic celebrations imparted his blessing upon the Hekima family saying, "You are a significant component of the church of Christ, and in his resurrection, may he rise in you anew, may he guide you and save you and give you courage and also success in all that you are doing and preparing to become. I wish you good luck."

His Grace, the Archbishop joined everyone for a meal before leaving.

In Gratitude

On 28th April 2023, the College bid farewell to four faculty members including the deputy principal for academic affairs, the registrar, a non-teaching staff as well as the third-year theology students and second-year master's students. The event took place during the colorful Eucharistic celebrations led by the principal Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, SJ.

Rev. Prof. Peter Knox

Outgoing Deputy Principal
for Academic Affairs



Perfectionist, orderly, always punctual, swift to action, empathetic to workers, understanding, available, and the list goes on. These are the attributes of Rev. Prof. Peter Knox, a Jesuit priest from South Africa who from 2012 has diligently served Hekima University College. He

is leaving Hekima on 6th June 2023 to serve his Province in his native country.

The principal Dr. Marcel Uwineza describes Prof. Knox during the farewell ceremony as a person of great simplicity and scholarship which he does not impose on others, while Rev. Dr. Gasper Sunhwa, SJ who spoke on behalf of the faculty said that he met Prof. Knox in 2006 in South Africa and what struck him most was that Prof. Knox is a jovial and very welcoming man.

"Your ability to blend the social life and the academic life is quite amazing Peter and you are very generous with your ideas and with your time. Peter God bless you, we will miss you so much," Dr. Sunhwa said.

Ms. Lilian Itenya who spoke on behalf of the non-teaching staff described Prof Knox as a very patient and understanding father figure who is always there for others. "If anyone falls sick or has other problems, you always made a call to check on them and also assure them of your prayers. Many of us have been able to grow with you professionally," Ms. Itenya said.

Dr. Arlene Acosta

Outgoing Registrar



Her feminist touch is felt in every way she handles situations, with a caring and motherly touch, a woman of great professionalism, dignity, and simplicity who is able to blend in any situation where her attention is most needed; Dr. Arlene Acosta will be leaving Hekima at the end of July after nine years of diligent and dedicated service.

"You have been a wonderful presence at Hekima. You always go the extra mile to help the staff who are mourning, ensuring that everything is in order during our meetings or special gatherings. Your public relations with the Catholic University of which we are a constituent college, with the Commission for University Education, and much more will remain engraved in our heart," the principal pointed out.

Ms. Lilian Itenya, an administrative secretary at Hekima who has worked with Dr. Acosta for a longer period of time described her as a people person who blends in any class or status. "We thank God for the opportunity to work with you. You have a great personality, you volunteer yourself, and you are generous with your ideas, time, and even your finances. You create time for everyone and for every challenging situation, a colleague may be in. We thank you and wish you all the best in your next endeavor."

Fr. Anicet N'Teba

Outgoing Assistant Director JHIA



Rev. Dr. Anicet N'Teba is described as a quiet and dedicated servant whose work speaks for him. Hekima principal Dr. Uwineza described Dr. N'Teba as a firm believer in the Society of Jesus if the Society were to be suppressed God forbid, then Anicet would tirelessly work to resurrect it. "Among your many qualities Anicet, your love for the Society of Jesus is unmatched," Dr. Uwineza said. Speaking on behalf of the faculty, Dr. Sunhwa said that Anicet first came to Nairobi when he was dean in Ivory Coast to attend a conference on the History of the Society of Jesus, and in his presentation, he said, "...gentlemen if you don't know history, then really you don't know the Society of Jesus."

Dr. Sunhwa revealed that not a single day in all the years that he served at the Jesuit Historical Center in Africa which is located at the postgraduate campus on Riara Road did Anicet ever take a car to go to work. "This says a lot about you Anicet. You are a man who is dedicated, humble, and happy to serve, thank you so much!"



Fathers Pierre-Celestin Musoni, Cyrus Mwangi, and Valentine Ossai.



The three came together in 2021 and have served Hekima for two academic years. They are embarking on another academic journey to pursue their doctoral degrees in various fields. While appreciating them for their dedicated service, the Hekima principal told them that one cannot edit a blank page. He therefore, encouraged them to go write their dissertations and come back to share the knowledge at Hekima.

Speaking on behalf of the non-teaching staff, Ms. Lilian Itenya observed that the personalities of both Fr. Cyrus and Fr. Valentine, who were students at Hekima not long ago have not changed with their status in the faculty. "You have remained the same approachable, good listeners, and kind people just like you were when you were students here. And to Fr. Celestin, those who have interacted closely with you closely, say you are a good listener, very helpful, and able to blend with others very well."

Dr. Gaspar Sunhwa, SJ on behalf of the faculty described Father Cyrus who belongs to the same province of the Society of Jesus as his as a good friend. "One thing I noticed about Cyrus right from his novitiate is his dedication and the way he looks out for everybody, I also noticed that he was very intelligent. Cyrus, continue the passion in your public life and come after two years and work here again for the next 40 years!"

"Ossai Valentine was my student of course for three years and in him, I saw a very generous human being. After his comprehensive exams, I noticed that he did very well and said that hopefully, he might come back here in the future. So it was a prophecy! So now Ossai, go and come back!"

"Musoni was also one of my students and like Cyrus and Valentine, Musoni is a very generous person and very serious in his work. I hope you will continue with that spirit! I, therefore, urge you to go for your studies and then come back and bring back the very serious attitude that you have!"

Sister Petronilla Imo joined the staff of Hekima College as the first non-Jesuit acting Deputy Principal for Administration and Finance. She very ably stepped into the office and helped us to apply Kenyan legislation in all areas of our HR policies and practices. With unbounded energy, Sister Imo headed the newly-created conferencing and the accommodation department of the college. She became the house manager who has been responsible for the supervision and coordination of our loyal and long-serving house and grounds staff, and the maintenance of the facilities. As a dedicated and hard worker, coming early to the office and working late nights, Sister Imo has capably and professionally performed some tasks that she could never have imagined when she first signed up at Hekima: keeping our staff and students safe through social distancing in the pandemic; replacing boreholes; catering to over 100 people every day. Hekima will feel the absence of her firm hand and forceful presence. We wish her all the best for the completion of her PhD and her future appointments.

The Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA)



We at the Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA), would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the continued support you all have shown to the Institute as we approach the beginning of the end of this Semester. We sincerely thank those of you who have taken the time to support our services, be it in-person or online, throughout your busy lives. Above all, we say God's grace is sufficient.

As we briefly highlight JHIA activities, you all know that JHIA is a place of preserving memory for posterity. Therefore, as an institute we must remind the future of the little things we do today, as our Principal, Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, S.J., says [Umuryango utibuka uraziwa, a family which does not remember vanishes, a Rwandan adage]. He adds that past events are not of the past...on the contrary, highly topical. They have shaped our societies and carry us into the future.

JHIA has gone one step further in realizing its vision and mission. Aside from just collecting sources and making them available to researchers, we have transformed ourselves into a Jesuit research and publishing center in Africa. Whoever said Rome wasn't built in a day is right because we're almost there! We wish to position ourselves accurately on the geographic map as a center of prosperous resources within the Jesuit establishment in Africa and Madagascar within the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). Here are some of our recent activities

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available to researchers, we are transforming ourselves into a Jesuit research and publishing center in Africa. Whoever said Rome wasn't built in a day is right because we're almost there! We wish to position ourselves accurately on the geographic map as a center of prosperous resources within the Jesuit establishment in Africa and Madagascar within the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). We do all these knowing well the challenges ahead of us as our financial road map is not a smooth one. We grapple with the scarce space we have at the moment to make sure that it is well and full utilized and our professional manpower is contained in five (5) staff of two (2) Jesuits and three (3) Collaborators. Below are some of our recent activities.

Congregation of Procurators in Loyola, Spain:

Fr. Jean Luc Enyegue, SJ was among the African delegation who attended the 71st Congregation of Procurators in Loyola, Spain which took place on May 5, 2023 – On May 6, the Society of Jesus' 71st Congregation of Procurators begun in Loyola, Spain, with more than 100 Jesuits from around the world taking part. An essential governing body of the Society of Jesus, the assembly consists of one delegate from each of the Society's provinces and regions, in addition to Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, and his assistants. A key moment of the Congregation is the presentation of the De Statu Societatis – the state of the Society of Jesus – by Fr. Sosa. Among other topics, the De Statu reflected on the Universal Apostolic Preferences and how they are shaping

Society's life and mission. For more information on these news please visit our website <https://www.jhia.ac.ke/news-and-blogs/jesuits-gather-for-71st-congregation-of-procurators-in-loyola-spain/>

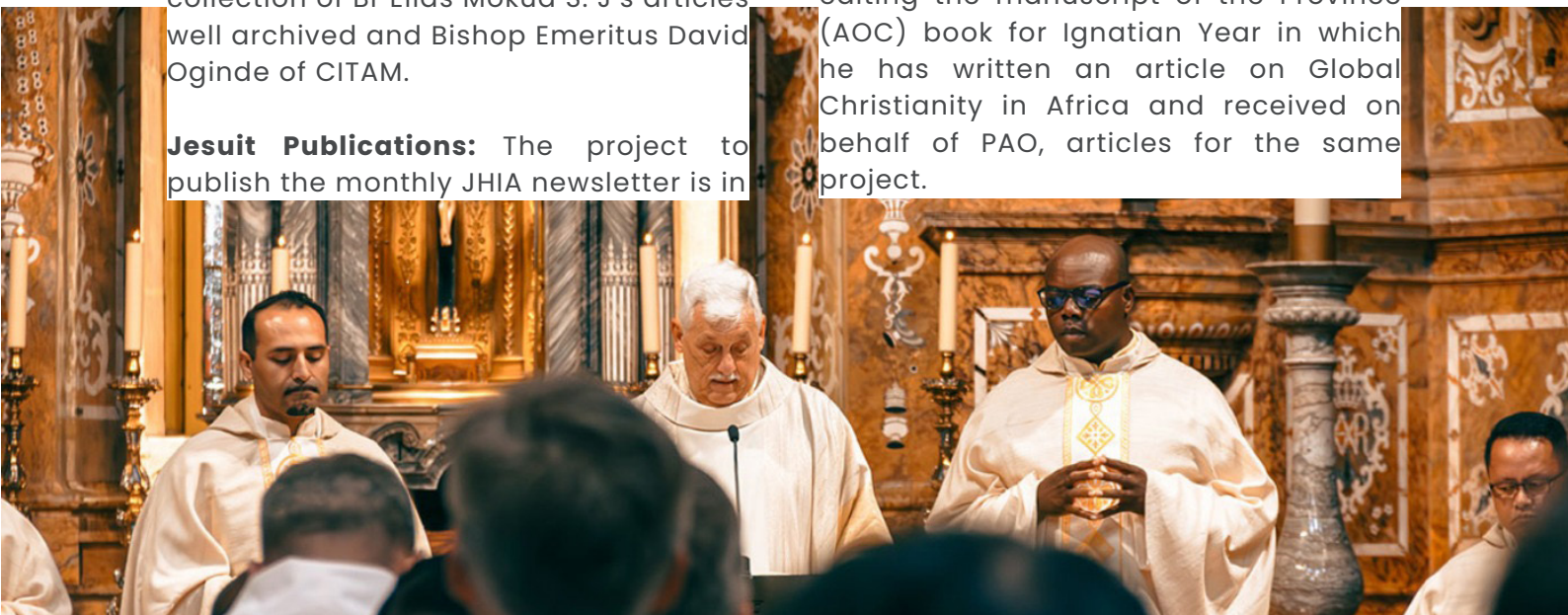
Book Donations: JHIA continues to maintain good relationships with its partners and donors. This refers to the books, gifts and donations that we normally receive from time to time. Some of these partners and donors publish resources from individual libraries, while others come from institutions and goodwill organizations. An example is The Langham Literary Partnership, Dr. Jonathan J. Bonk Collections, Hans and Zell African Study Collections, Terry Barringer Collection, Joseph A. Fitzmyer, The Jan-Georg Deutsch, The Late Karin Paasche, Libby Kelly and Angus Crichton. The list goes on and on.

Newspaper Collection Project: The project is taking shape. Some of the interesting collections are related to religion and Christianity, especially Christianity and Islam, culture, cults, politics, gender violence, banditry and famine and any other subject that is just nice to have. We believe that 50 years and beyond this will be a rich resource for the Historical Institute not only here in Africa but even in other parts of the world. For example, we have a special collection of Br Elias Mokua S. J's articles well archived and Bishop Emeritus David Oginde of CITAM.

Jesuit Publications: The project to publish the monthly JHIA newsletter is in

its second year and has received positive reviews. We no longer seek to educate people about JHIA's activities and programs. Research and book publishing has gained remarkable momentum. JHIA expects to keep the publication project going by publishing at least a few books each year. This year, The Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (ARSI) will publish a title *Splash of Diamond: Jesuit Presence in Ethiopia from 1945 to Present* by Fr. Festo Mkenda, S.J. in collaboration with JHIA. We have a number of publications that are ready for press and many more that are still under review:

- 1) Challenges Facing High Education in East Africa by Fr. Joseph Oduor Afulo, S.J.
- 2) Les Jésuites et la naissance du clergé diocésain de Popokabaka-Kwango by Fr. Anicet N'teba Mbengi, S.J.
- 3) Catholic Theology and Ethics in World Church – Africa Global Health Crisis and Ethical Leadership in Africa: Beyond the Covid-19 by Fr. Toussaint Kafarhire Murhula, S.J. and Odomaro Mubangizi, S.J. Editors
- 4) Sous la direction du Institut de Théologie de la Compagnie de Jésus ITCJ DU BERCEAU A L'ADOLESCENCE 2003 – 2018 15ans – Père Anicet N'TEBA MBENGI, S.J.
- 5) The JHIA Director Fr. Jean Luc Enyegue, S.J. was actively involved in editing the manuscript of the Province (AOC) book for Ignatian Year in which he has written an article on Global Christianity in Africa and received on behalf of PAO, articles for the same project.



ICT and Digital Archives/Library: JHIA ICT personnel successfully participated in the recovery of the Hekima University College (HUC) library database and creating of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that automates the majority of day-to-day office operations such as accounting, procurement, and many others. Verification of HUC thesis and dissertations on JHIA website and populating University of Ghana dissertations received. We are currently working on the archiving system, intended to help the JHIA in its classification of items. The team is also working to see that all cataloged books have machine readable barcodes. The website: JHIA website is revamped from time to time to make it user friendly. Lately, we have received homilies from Jesuits and manuscripts from Fr. Gaspar Sunwah, S.J. Retreat Direction class courtesy of Fr. Jean Luc Enyegue, S.J., JHIA Director which are being populated on the Jesuit Sources in Africa (JSA), Ignatian Spirituality in Africa on the website portal (www.jhia.ac.ke/ignatian-spirituality-in-africa) with limited public access and we also hope to dedicate JHIA September Newsletter to the same. Permission can be received by the institute or the author. The online catalog is also accessible on the main website (www.catalog.jhia.ac.ke).

Zoom Meetings: 3rd Café of Jesuit Historians (Café Engelbert Mveng) - 23, February 2023: Decolonization of discourses and practices in the Society of Jesus in Congo, 1960-1999. Presented by Father Simon Nsielanga Tukumu, S.J., a PhD candidate at KU Leuven's Faculty of Arts, History Research Unit, and Research Group MoSA. He discussed how the Society of Jesus adapted to new situations during the first decades of Congolese independence in his dissertation (1960-1999). 4th Café of

Jesuit Historians (Café Engelbert Mveng) Academic Presentation of Fr. Jean Paul Savi, SJ - 27, April 2023: Universalité missionnaire et identités nationales dans le Vicariat Apostolique du Togo (1892-1937). Presented by Fr. Jean-Paul Savi Atsu, SJ. who discussed the universalities of mission and national identities in Togo during the Apostolic Vicariate of Togo from 1892 to 1937.

Special Visitors to JHIA: JHIA was privileged to host a delegation from the Catholic University of Central Africa, (UCAC) led by Prof. Charles Moukala 2nd Vice-Rector, Mrs. Prof. Pulchérie Amougui Dean of the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences, Father Prof. Yvon Elenga SJ Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Management.

Friends of JHIA and Financial Appeals: JHIA runs a financial appeal campaign to Friends of JHIA, Well-wishers and Partners. This goes a long way in meeting some of our short time and long term financial obligations such as acquisitions of materials by purchase and shipping, research projects and some of recurrent projects. We have also submitted grant proposals for funds, books and shipment.

Bidding Associate Director Farewell: JHIA will miss Father Anicet N'Teba, S.J. (Associate Director) after 3 years of excellent service to the institution. His humble approach to work and archival spirit will stay with us. As he moves to his next mission in Editions Loyola as the Director and Vice Archivists and Director of ACE News, we hope to be able to work with him to continue the publication projects which Fr. Jean Luc Enyegue, S.J. and him initiated together.



Chaplain's Corner

Non-Teaching Staff Recollection

The Chaplain's office on April 14 organized a day of recollection for the non-teaching staff at the Jesuit Retreat House in Mwangaza Karen. The event, which had 23 participants, was led by the chaplain Dr. James Campbell, assisted by Dr. Kifle Wansamo and two of our Jesuit students. They reflected on St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus. The recollection was insightful especially for the non-Catholics in this group. The day ended with a Eucharistic celebration.

Meanwhile, as the academic year comes to a close, the chaplain conveyed appreciation to all who have contributed to the success of the Wednesday Liturgy, the highlight being, the celebration by the Archbishop of Nairobi His Grace Philip Anyolo.





A light moment at the Library

The Library staff relax with the HoD and two HUC Admin crew (Registrar & Secretary) to celebrate the completion of the arduous Annual Library stock-taking done last summer.

A joy also for Prof. Chukwuemeka Orji, S.J. over his published article –
 “The Wine Jars of Cana: The Hour and the Glory of Jesus” Isoko vol. 1, (2022) pp. 139-146.

The team finally finished a major work entrusted to them several years ago: moving to Koha and the automating Bar-coding system.

– Thanks Margaret, Mary, Joseph, Sam.

To be noted: the next Library stock-taking is all set & scheduled for this summer!

Chukwuemeka Orji, S.J.
 HUC HoD





Commemorating Ten Years as Pope

Scholars highlight distinctive aspects of the Papacy of the Jesuit Jorge Bergoglio

It was on Wednesday, 13th March 2013 at 7:06 p.m. Rome Time when white smoke rose and billowed into the night from the Sistine Chapel chimney heralding the election of the 266th Pope in a decision that was made on the cardinals' fifth ballot; two-thirds of the 115 Cardinals agreed on who would lead the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in what was seen as one of the speediest conclaves in years. Just over one hour after the white smoke signal, a cardinal appeared and pronounced the ancient words; "Habemus Papam! We have a Pope!" The first Latin-American Pontiff, the first Jesuit, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He chose the name, Francis, becoming the First Pope Francis.

The choice of the name Francis was interpreted as a signal that he wanted to show a different face of the Church, the face of the poor. Francis is the name of one of the most revolutionary figures in Christianity, St. Francis of Assisi who lived a life of radical poverty and for the planet, thus the name Francis reflects a commitment to simplicity. Being a Jesuit, Pope Francis had been living the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and the spirituality of finding God in all things. At his election, media commentators talked of the challenges he was going to face; a fractured church, declining attendance, global child abuse scandal, among others.

Fast forward, it's been ten years of Francis' Papacy and to commemorate this important day of his election, Hekima University College on 13th March 2023, held a blended conference where renowned scholars reflected on the legacy of Pope Francis over the 10 years. Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, SJ, the Principal of Hekima University College who convened the conference expressed that it was an honor to have a conversation as we celebrate ten years of the pontificate of Pope Francis.

"Hekima University College is known as a rigorous academic institution and those of you who have studied here would likely agree with me. As an academic institution, we did think that it was appropriate to celebrate the 10 years of the pontificate of Francis with a substantive conversation. As a Christian institution, we have had liturgies to commemorate this day, however, liturgies are not enough, therefore having this conversation is key as an academic institution," Dr. Uwineza explained.

Among the key presenters included Rev. Dr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, the outgoing President of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM) who talked about the theology/or spirituality of leadership of Pope Francis. Dr. Orobator talked about three leadership dimensions of Pope Francis, namely, Pastoral, Prophetic, and Spiritual.

Dr. Orobator pointed out that the pastoral approach of Pope Francis' leadership implies that it is all about people, while his prophetic leadership dimension comes out in the way he uses his platform to speak truth to reality, to speak the truth for institutions, and to speak the truth for personality. Regarding the spiritual dimension of his leadership, Pope Francis is clear that he is not a CEO but rather feels called and hopes that the Lord will judge him on how much he has succeeded in practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy; feeding the poor, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, etc.

Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ who works as an Under-Secretary for the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops was another presenter during the Hekima Conference. Sr. Nathalie an ecclesialogist addressed the topic of Pope Francis' reforms and his critics.

Chris Lowney is a well-known writer who recently published a book titled *Why He Leads the Way He Leads* and is also the author of the book *Heroic Leadership* addressed the topic: "Ten Unique Years", and "What makes Pope Francis Distinctive". In his presentation, Chris Lowney pointed out that the issue of the Periphery for Pope Francis is a core preoccupation, so much so that sometimes he has been nicknamed the pope of the peripheries. His enactment of this priority shows up in many ways but one obvious one is the composition of the College of Cardinals where Francis bypassed cities that

traditionally had Cardinals like Los Angeles and Philadelphia in America and instead focused on places like Mongolia that had never had Cardinals.

Rev. Dr. Nobert Litoing, SJ a Jesuit Priest from Cameroon who is well-known for Christian-Islamic studies addressed the topic Pontificate of Pope Francis' encounter with the Muslim world, while Rt. Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Mejía Saldarriaga, SJ, Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Soddo, Ethiopia offered the final remarks.

"As we celebrate ten years of his papacy, all we can say about Pope Francis is that he has refused to be put into categories, to be confined," Dr. Uwineza, HUC Principal said adding that the pontiff is an elusive character beyond any categorization.

Adding that Pope Francis is a free man, Dr. Uwineza quoted Pope Francis in one of his speeches "When there are divisions in the Church, some say I am conservative, for others, I am progressive, for others, I am a centrist, but I should reply to them and say, where is the Holy Spirit in these labels? The Gospel is not an idea or an ideology, it is a proclamation that touches and changes your heart. But if you hide in an idea, whether it's of right or left or center, you are making the Gospel a political party, an ideology, or a social club. The Gospel gives that freedom of the spirit which acts and helps us to go further still."

Speaking at the conclusion of the conference, Dr. Uwineza expressed gratitude to the presenters as well as the audience who followed the conversation via the Hekima University College YouTube channel, Radio Maria Kenya, and Pacis TV Rwanda. He said that the quality of the conversation that had been expressed at the conference was indeed commendable. He expressed that the speakers at the conference were not only generous with their time but also with their insightful presentations which were very evident from what was shared.

JCAM President's Presentation at Hekima Conference underscored by the Holy Father in this year's Urbi et Orbi

The outgoing President of The Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar Rev. Dr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ focused on four key elements of the Pope's leadership: his ministry of consolation, his practice of preference of love, his celebration of the inherent goodness of the human being, and his example of leadership as a spiritual expression is building bridges.

These words of the JCAM President echoed the Urbi et Orbi message of the Holy Father. Regarding Pope Francis' ministry of consolation, Dr. Orobator said that "Even to this day, Francis' very familiar phrase is I am close to the people, I am close to the pain and I am close to the suffering; therefore his approach is to comfort the afflicted." Among the very first statements, the Holy Father expressed consolation to the sick and the suffering saying "May this Easter be for each of you, dear brothers and sisters, and in particular for the sick and the poor, the elderly and those experiencing moments of trial and weariness, a passage from affliction to consolation. We are not alone: Jesus, the Living One, is with us, forever." URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS EASTER 2023.

With regards to Pope Francis' practice of preference for love, Dr. Orobator said that it is very clear where the Holy Father's preference lies, it is with those we tend to leave behind. In reference to Pope Francis' interview for his 10th Anniversary, Dr. Orobator noted that the Holy Father was already talking about a globalization of indifference; a world that has become satiated and sated with its own affluence reserved for a few that tend to leave behind others. "So, in practicing the preference of love, the important thing is to begin at the margins, at the periphery where we have banished the vulnerable, and the weak; where we have banished those who count for nothing in society and that is where Pope Francis exercises his leadership as a pastorally, prophetically and spiritually grounded person." In his Urbi et Orbi message, the Holy Father implores everyone to "make haste to surmount our conflicts and divisions, and to open our hearts to those in greatest need. Let us hasten to pursue paths of peace and fraternity."

In exercising this preferential love, the Holy Father implored all to "help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia. Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families. Open the





hearts of the entire international community to strive to end this war and all conflict and bloodshed in our world, beginning with Syria, which still awaits peace. Strengthen all those affected by the violent earthquake in Turkey and in Syria itself. Let us pray for all those who have lost family and friends, and for those left homeless. May they receive consolation from God and assistance from the family of nations."

The third element Dr. Orobator underlined is Pope Francis' celebration of the inherent goodness of the human being where he pointed out that whenever people step up to make a difference, part of Pope Francis' idea as a leader is to recognize and celebrate them. He pointed out that the best manifestation of the human spirit of this was at the high peak of the Covid-19 pandemic when the Holy Father spoke about people who were giving of themselves to make a difference in the lives of others.

"He had these wonderful expressions: soldiers of love, bedside angels, martyrs of charity, guardians of hope, custodians of the flame of mercy, etc. This is an expression of his celebration of the inherent goodness of human beings basically reminding us that deep within us lies the possibility to make a difference, to do good," Dr. Orobator expressed. Again this comes out in the Urbi et Orbi message of Pope Francis when he said, "Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries, beginning with those that offer assistance and welcome to all fleeing from war and poverty."

Finally, Dr. Orobator talked about Pope Francis' example of leadership as a spiritual expression in building bridges and he expresses that Pope Francis' pontifex maximizes the greatest bridge builder who wears not only the title but actually lives the action as he exercises his pastoral leadership. He said that Pope Francis champions building bridges across the religious divide as we see him do in reaching out to practitioners of the Islamic faith; bridges to all categories of people as we see him do in his commitment to migrants and refugees; to elderly people, to children, to youth, to prisoners, and as we have seen him demonstrate over and over, and to the chagrin of some people, bridges across to sexual minorities in the Christian community.

In the Urbi et Orbi message, the Holy Father expresses "deep concern for the attacks in recent days that threaten the desired climate of trust and reciprocal respect necessary for the resumption of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, so that peace may reign in the Holy City and in the entire region." He prayed that the "Lord, aid Lebanon, which still seeks stability and unity so that divisions may be overcome and all citizens cooperate for the common good of the country." Not forgetting Africa, the Holy Father implored God to "be mindful of the beloved people of Tunisia, and in particular the young and those suffering from social and economic hardship so that they may not lose hope and may work together to build a future of peace and fraternity." He asked God to turn his gaze "to Haiti, which has long experienced a grave social, economic and humanitarian crisis, and support the efforts of political actors and the international community to seek a definitive solution to the many problems that afflict that sorely tried people." He prayed that the Lord may "consolidate the processes of peace and reconciliation undertaken in Ethiopia and in South Sudan, and grant an end to violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

He prayed that the Lord may sustain the Christian communities that celebrated Easter in particular circumstances, as in Nicaragua and Eritrea, and remembered all who are prevented from freely and publicly professing their faith. He asked God to grant consolation to victims of international terrorism, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique, and Nigeria, and help Myanmar to pursue paths of peace and enlighten the hearts of leaders, so that the deeply afflicted Rohingya may encounter justice.

Hekima University Students Association

Elect New Leaders

Kelvin Munkuli, a Jesuit second-year theology student from Zimbabwe was on 27th April elected president of the Hekima University College Students Association (HUCSA) replacing Jimin Cornelius, a Pallotine third-year student who was elected with his team last year. Munkuli's team includes Ms. Betty Too, a Kenyan first-year student of peace studies and international relations who was elected vice president, Filex Nimanya a Ugandan Montfort Missionary first-year student of theology who was elected organizing secretary and, Alexandra Nkondeya a Pallotine first-year theology student from Tanzania as the association's treasurer.

In his last speech as the president of the student's association during the closing ceremony for the academic year 2022-2023, Jimin expressed immense gratitude to the college administration for supporting their initiatives. He said that Hekima boasts of two important educational goals; academic excellence, and human formation. The human formation in this sense is seen holistically (spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and inter-relational aspects).

"HUCSA was established in 2013, by the then Principal Rev. Dr. Joseph Afulo, SJ. This association was to contribute to these two educational goals and truly, it has tried its best to be faithful to these goals throughout the years," Jimin said. Jimin further explained that as the college strives to promote the formation of the whole person, the good collaboration between the student association and the college administration has created a forum for students' participation in the curriculum and extra-curriculum activities. HUCSA thus stands as a bridge for promoting good relationships and networks between students and the administration. The outgoing president expressed profound gratitude to God for His mercy and guidance throughout the academic year that has come to a close. He confessed that it was a new phase of experience happening during the strict lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic, which began in 2020, especially for the students who are completing their three-year theology program, which started at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.



"We depended on the internet for our classes using Zoom and other forums. Oftentimes, we would start classes and at the end, some of us would be sleeping while others would have disappeared. We started our classes under such difficulties where at times the voices of some lecturers would not be audible over the gadgets we were using, the reason why some of us fell asleep leaving the lecturers talking to themselves," Jimin explained.

"This academic year was full of activities certainly but it was for us a time of getting to know one another more profoundly. We sincerely thank all our teaching and non-teaching staff for all the support they have extended to us. In a very special way, we thank the school administration, the former Principal Rev. Dr. John-Okoria, the current Principle,

Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, we thank Prof Peter Knox who unfortunately will be leaving us, we thank every other person who supported us and enabled us to carry out our activities as the students association at HUC."

To his fellow students who have finished their programs at Hekima, Jimin on behalf of the students association implored them to represent Hekima well. "It is our prayer that come next year, Hekima will be breaming with students such that the principal's office and the students' commons will all be turned into classrooms," he said amid cheers from fellow students and staff.

"Finally, for the many ways we have failed as students, we are imploring all whom we might have aggrieved to forgive us. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to pray for you."





40 Students Graduate with Certificate in Retreat Direction

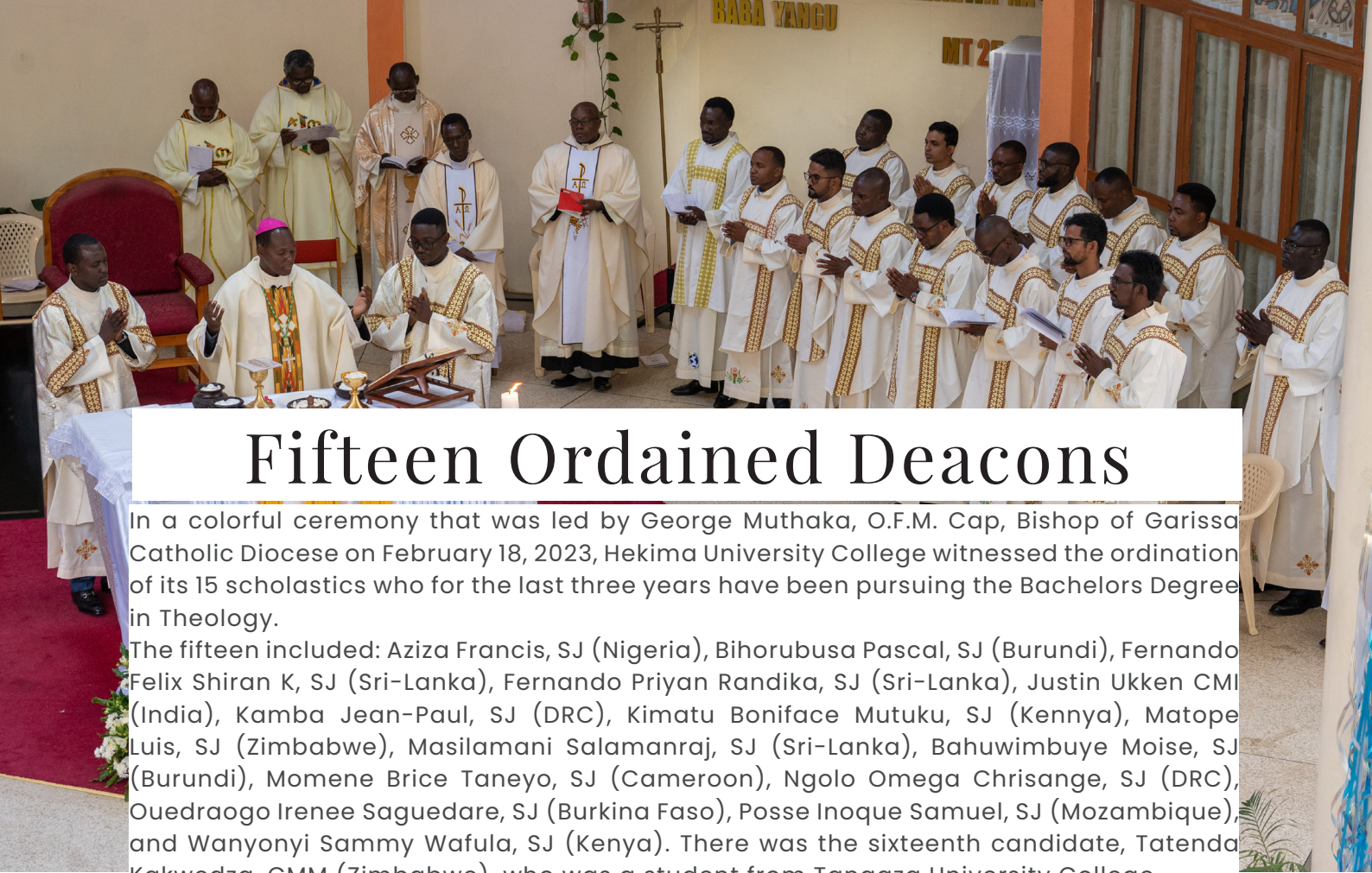
1st April 2023 marked the colorful end of an academic journey for 40 students who have been taking a certificate course in the retreat direction. The forty students received their certificates during a graduation ceremony held at the HUC undergraduate campus.

The aim of the Retreat Direction program is to offer foundational training in retreat guidance and spiritual direction. Started in 2009 by Rev. Dr. Varhese Malpan, SJ, the program covers listening skills, dynamics of a directing relationship, how to conduct interviews, the use of helpful Scriptural passages, and the application of the discernment of spirits, etc.

The Retreat Direction is open to people who have already made an individually-directed eight-day retreat, and who are being prepared to be prayer guides or formators in their respective religious affiliations. At Hekima University College, the program is not mandatory for students in Theology Program, however, it is highly recommended.

The program runs for 20 Saturdays usually beginning in September and ending in March. In order to qualify for the certificate at the end of the program, full attendance at all the sessions is mandatory.





Fifteen Ordained Deacons

In a colorful ceremony that was led by George Muthaka, O.F.M. Cap, Bishop of Garissa Catholic Diocese on February 18, 2023, Hekima University College witnessed the ordination of its 15 scholastics who for the last three years have been pursuing the Bachelors Degree in Theology.

The fifteen included: Aziza Francis, SJ (Nigeria), Bihorubusa Pascal, SJ (Burundi), Fernando Felix Shiran K, SJ (Sri-Lanka), Fernando Priyan Randika, SJ (Sri-Lanka), Justin Ukken CMI (India), Kamba Jean-Paul, SJ (DRC), Kimatu Boniface Mutuku, SJ (Kenya), Matope Luis, SJ (Zimbabwe), Masilamani Salamanraj, SJ (Sri-Lanka), Bahuwimbuye Moise, SJ (Burundi), Momene Brice Taneyo, SJ (Cameroon), Ngolo Omega Chrisange, SJ (DRC), Ouedraogo Irene Saguedare, SJ (Burkina Faso), Posse Inoque Samuel, SJ (Mozambique), and Wanyonyi Sammy Wafula, SJ (Kenya). There was the sixteenth candidate, Tatenda Kakwedza, CMM (Zimbabwe), who was a student from Tangaza University College.

"God is always the source of the call, he uses human instruments to call us, but in essence, he is the one who calls each one of us. Let us glorify him and thank him for calling you, my dear brothers. Let us thank him for continuing to call men and women to continue the work of leading us to Himself, let us honor him by being faithful to his call. When you answered PRESENT, you were not simply stating the fact that you are physically present", the bishop said.

"Remember, this call of God is not only happening today, but it comes every day. In your ministerial lives, in various ways the Lord is going to call you to serve, it will come through the people you serve, people will come to you, calling you, asking for your help; remember to say PRESENT as you have said this morning," he urged them saying that the call will come through young people in need of someone to accompany them, through the poor people who want someone to encourage them and be with them and journey with them.

Responding to the event, Deacon Jean-Paul Kamba speaking on behalf of his colleagues thanked God whom he said planted the seed, by calling each of the newly ordained. "We thank the Bishop of Garissa Diocese for journeying all the way to us, accepting to be with us on this occasion. We owe much gratitude to our superiors and formators who also journeyed with us throughout our formation", he said.

The Jesuit Community Rector Father Deogratius Rwezaura, SJ expressed gratitude to everyone present at the occasion, specially thanking the liturgical committee led by Rev. Father Jean-Luc, SJ, and Rev. Father Emmanuel Banda, SJ, as well as the steering committee. In addition, he thanked the benefactors who, through their generosity have continued to support the missions entrusted to us by God. He urged the newly ordained deacons to continue being servants of Christ.

Finally, he thanked Bishop Muthaka for the sacrifice he made to come all the way from Garissa to Nairobi to preside over the occasion. "It is more than 300 kilometers from Garissa to Nairobi and you accepted to travel that long route to be with us here today in order to ordain these men. We are most grateful for your gracious presence and also your gracious words in which you have reminded each one of us that we are called to serve," Father Rwezaura said.

Hekima Hostel Experience

Hekima offers a hostel facility to a few students who come from other countries and have no convenient place to stay as they pursue their studies. Although quite limited, the facility has been a haven for students sent by dioceses or religious groups that do not have a residence in the vicinity of the college.

Catechist Michael Thilyang has been residing at the facility as he pursues his studies at Hekima and calls it home away from home. He came to Nairobi to begin his academic pursuit at the beginning of the Corona Virus Pandemic and stayed at Langata, one of the estates in Nairobi. Using public transport, he was commuting from Langata to Karen and then from Karen to Hekima, which was quite hectic and costly. He decided to consult one of Hekima's lecturers, a religious sister who resides at the hostel. "Sr. Mary Nzilani advised me to write an email to the Hekima administration and that is how I came to stay at Hekima College hostels. This place has been wonderful and very convenient for me for the last three and a half years that I have been here. We have a wonderful community where we are a family

We usually hold three meetings every semester to interact with each other, get to know each other as we juggle in this academic journey," he explained.

The Hekima Principal, Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, who led the recent farewell celebrations reiterated that it is wonderful to have a place to call home. "I pray that at least now in our tenure we are able to build a new larger accommodation where more students who wish to join us can be accommodated. I think that one of the limitations of the HIPSIR program is that accommodation is limited, yet if we want to grow and have other programs, we need more accommodation. So in this thanksgiving Mass, let us bring this intention to God that we will be in a position to have more accommodation in the near future," the principal said.

The celebrations which were held at Hekima postgraduate campus where the hostels are situated began with a Mass, which was led by the Principal Rev. Dr. Marcel Uwineza, SJ assisted by the Dean of HIPSIR, Rev. Dr. Elisee Rutagambwa, SJ, and Rev. Fr. Cyrus Mwangi, SJ who teaches at JST. The Liturgy concluded with the afternoon meal.





Third Year JST Students appreciate rigorous formation at Hekima

As the third-year students of the Jesuit School of Theology (JST) come to the completion of their three-year theology studies, they testify that it has been extremely demanding. However, they appreciate the rigorous academic journey saying that they have been well-formed. The students spoke during a thanksgiving ceremony organized by the college to bid farewell to both JST and Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) students who stay at the institution's hostel on Thursday, April 20.

For Catechist Michael Thilyang from the Catholic Diocese of Malakal South Sudan, who has been studying for a bachelor's degree in theology, it was God's plan that he found himself at Hekima, an institution that he had never heard of until he was in Nairobi.

"In March 2020, I received admission to Hekima and I think this was a call from God. If anyone asks me today to say something about my experience here at Hekima, I would confidently say that I am a Jesuit Layperson," he commented.

Michael attested that the formation at Hekima University College is very demanding. However, the lecturers are always available for students, to guide, direct and offer support.

"We thank the lecturers for what they have taught us in class. Many times, they make us sweat, giving us more and more assignments, and compelling us to read and analyze lots of articles!"

He said that the lecturer's strictness especially with issues of plagiarism is

much recommended as it made them work hard and worthy of the marks they obtained. Thank you Hekima lecturers for pushing us to work hard even when our bodies felt tired.

"We are going out there to testify that Hekima University College is the right place to do African Theology. My dream and hope are that my bishop will accept to support me to come back and do STL. I also hope that more bishops will send more people to Hekima.

Echoing the sentiments of Catechist Michael Thilyang is Cornelius Jimin, a Pallotine student from Nigeria who pointed out that the lecturers at Hekima through their work make it known to the scholastics that they are not at Hekima for a holiday.

"When I went back to Nigeria in May last year for the holidays, I met my peers from one of the Diocesan Seminaries and a debate arose about certain things in theology but I kept quiet just listening to their arguments. Somewhere when the debate got heated up, I started quoting *Dictatus papae* which was taught by Rev. Dr. Jean-Luc, and all of them became astonished because I was reasoning at a higher level. This made me a star among them as they wanted to hear more from me! In as much as Hekima has pushed us, we have been pushed to the right direction and we are going out there well prepared to face an enlightened society," Jimin who was also the president of Hekima University College Students Association (HUCSA) explained.

HUC Former Principal looks Back! Dr. John-Okoria speaks!

On 11th January 2023, Hekima University College said farewell to the immediate former Principal Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ. J.-O. as he is fondly known arrived in Hekima in March 2017 from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington where he was a presidential scholar in residence. He took his appointment to Hekima in stride knowing that as Jesuits, they are men on a mission, therefore when he was informed of the new mission to Hekima, he didn't get to finish his program at Gonzaga University, but rather packed and left for Nairobi.

Having studied for his Bachelor of Theology at Hekima, the place was not strange at all to him, in fact, a lot of the people he met when he arrived as the new principal had been students with him also, for instance, Dr. Elias Opongo, SJ, and quite a number of people were friends; this according to Dr. John-Okoria, made his return to Nairobi easier.

"So I would say the re-immersion was smooth; because with the support of the board of trustees, (the provincials of Africa and Madagascar), and the Management Board, coming in was good."

As the saying goes, everything that has a beginning must have an end and so was Dr. John-Okoria's tenure at the helm of Hekima University College. He is now back in his Province, in his own country Nigeria where he is based in Lagos serving as Provincial Delegate for the University Education for Africa North West Province (ANW).

Hekima University College Communications Department sought the views of Dr. John-Okoria on various issues including his experience as principal during the Covid-19 pandemic, his treasured moments at Hekima, and his hopes and opportunities at Hekima. Also his word of advice to students, faculty, and non-teaching staff, as well as his take on exam irregularities and malpractices - a reality in many institutions of learning. Finally, the department also probed him on the courses he taught at Hekima.



Dr. John-Okoria's Experience as HUC Principal during COVID-19 Pandemic

We already decided that we wanted to install virtual classrooms here at Hekima before the Covid era. So in 2018, we set up a virtual classroom thanks to the Global Theology Initiative (GTI), which is a partnership with all the English-speaking Jesuit Theology schools in the world. These include the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley California, the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College in the USA, the Loyola School of Theology at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines; Vidyajyoti College of Theology - Delhi India; Regis College at the University of Toronto Canada; and Hekima Jesuit School of Theology in Nairobi Kenya. So we came together to form this global theology initiative and among the fruits was the setting up of virtual classrooms where we could interact with students and staff outside Hekima.

So in 2018 with the grants that we got from GTI which was close to 20,000 dollars, we were able to set up a virtual classroom at the postgraduate campus on Riara Road. It was not being used that much but when Covid came, we realized that the virtual classroom was such a great tool for education. So Hekima was really the only constituent college of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) that continued with its programs uninterrupted during the Covid 19 lockdown when even the mother University CUEA with its Theology department closed down at the height of the pandemic.

Hekima students were able to complete their three years of theology formation and had their Diaconate ordination as scheduled and went back to their countries to be ordained for various ministries. Therefore we give thanks to God for that opportunity and as I said, this was partly possible because we are a small institution perhaps if we had thousands of students, it would have been a bit more complicated and a different story. For the kind of institution that we are, I think we were able to learn a lot from Covid and actually see that there is so much potential in terms of virtual learning. And from the experience with Covid, we now have two more virtual classrooms at the undergraduate campus in the auditorium of the School of Theology and at the communications center. Covid yes was very bad, we lost lots of people and here at Hekima, we lost two professors whom we continue to pay tribute to, Prof. Omoka and Prof. Gichure; May their souls continue to rest in peace. I would therefore say that there is a sad aspect of Covid and no doubt about that, but on the brighter side, I think we learned a lot, especially that there are other ways of actually engaging in learning and that it doesn't have to be the old traditional way of lectures in lecture halls.

Dr. John-Okoria's Treasured Moments in Hekima

It is difficult to pick any one single aspect of Hekima College and say that this is the most treasured. As an administrator you have the Management Board, the Council, and the Board of Trustees (BoT); so there are different levels of activities and indeed very different and not comparable. So the kind of conversations that take place at BoT is very different from the Council, very different from the Management Board and other staff meetings. Each of these I think is a treasured moment in its own right. Therefore if I were going to answer the question about treasured moments, or any I would say the informal interactions. The Wednesday College Mass after which we gather and share a meal; is actually one of the few times that I enjoy sitting down and having a meal, camaraderie, and agape, it's communal. I would have preferred the post-graduate campus lunch because the lawn is well spread out and Mr. Kefa, the grounds worker does a very good job with the gardening there, so when we used to have those Masses there, the few times we had Mass there because we used to alternate between the Postgraduate campus and the undergraduate campus; the Postgraduate Campus doesn't have a chapel as such but the after Mass event was so lovely, seeing everybody at the lawn with all your troubles and fights aside and just chat as human beings and enjoy each other's company; looking back, it is one of my most treasured moments at Hekima. I think it is something that the college should treasure as well, have more of those. The formal setups and arrangements are important for the running of any institution but I think that those moments when people actually sit down and share a meal and chat are equally important.

Dr. John-Okoria's Hopes & Opportunities at Hekima

The great thing about Hekima is that there are not many tertiary levels institutions in Africa that give the kind of quality education that Hekima gives and this is partly because of the generosity of staff and the active involvement of Jesuits; for example, if you take Hekima School of Theology, there are about twenty Jesuits there, for a very small school of theology where we have about 100 students, having about 20 Jesuits with Ph.D. as senior lecturers and professors is a mark of quality in itself. In addition, there is what we call in the Jesuit circles *cura personalis* (care for the person) at Hekima which makes it easy to cope very well.

I think Hekima is in a very good position right now. The opportunity that we had to bring in sisters and lay people to study at Hekima is God's gift to us. We have managed to secure grants for the sisters' program from the Hilton Foundation and we are grateful to Sr. Jane Wakahio, the Vice President of the Hilton Foundation. This is indeed an opportunity for Hekima to expand. I remember when I came to Hekima in 2017, it was predominately a male institution, and a number of classes didn't have any female students. So I took it upon myself to make sure that from now on, every year there would be at least one female student in the Theology class and by the grace of God, we have been able to do that through the scholarship. Theology is not a field that women want to go into as it does not put food on the table, so the scholarship helps to encourage people to take up the course and I am very happy that since 2018, we have been able to consistently have a female student in theology classes and as a matter of fact, there is currently no class in the school of theology that doesn't have a female student.

My hope is that Hekima will become a more inclusive tertiary institution. Although the focus on priestly formation is good for the Jesuits who want to train their men to be priests; to be at the service of the Church in Africa and for the other congregations, something is missing when you don't interact with more than a half of the rest of human race. It is therefore very important to have more women at Hekima, whether religious sisters or lay people mingling with the Jesuits, studying together, and getting different perspectives because women have a very special perspective to offer. However, the male dominant society is so loud that more often than not, we don't hear what women are saying. My hope is that in the future Hekima will actually be richer not just in the financial sense of tertiary institutions but because we are more inclusive.



Who gets the scholarships?

The Hilton Foundation Scholarship is only for African Sisters. However, there is the other scholarship whose donors wish to remain anonymous and is open to all women religious and lay. There are laypeople who have already benefitted from this, for example, Mrs. Nicole Facheux, a Cameroonian laywoman who undertook the Licentiate program at Hekima. Part of the requirement for this scholarship is that the beneficiary must undertake to teach at Hekima upon successful completion. The scholarship is for licentiate studies which is what one requires to teach in a Theologate. The licentiate is slightly more than a regular Master as someone who successfully completes the program gets both MTh and an STL after two years. So if a laywoman decides to apply for the scholarship, they must keep in mind that they would eventually be required to come in and teach at Hekima probably beginning with an elective or a seminar, and hopefully should they be interested in doing a Ph.D., they would be assigned other courses. We want a church that is more inclusive and where more women would be teaching at the seminaries.

Dr. John-Okoria's advice to students, faculty, and non-teaching staff: "If you are going to call something Jesuit, it should be something that is of quality, high standard, and well done!"

I remember the last time we invited the Papal Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, Archbishop Van Megen, who is an alumnus of a Jesuit institution, to Hekima, he said that the Jesuits would drill you and make sure that they drive the knowledge into you, they drive you crazy! And I said to him, you are the better product! We have this Jesuit thing about Magis which is almost like perfectionism, you have to do things well, therefore, if you are going to call something Jesuit, it should be something that is of quality, high standard, and well done. This is no easy task, it means a lot of sacrifices. I look at the Jesuit faculty for example, we are administrators, we are teaching, we are doing all sorts of things at the same time and that is a sacrifice which sometimes can be quite stressful.

In the heat of it, it can be frustrating, you would be exhausted as both staff and students would demand so much from you, making you attend hours and hours of classes, and write so many assignments. It is therefore very easy to become negative and start whining and complaining. This is horrible, it is quite tough! So if we are patient with one another and see what we are doing in the light of the Magis, we will soon realize that the drill is meant for us to be better people. In the long run, you will not be the same as the person who you were when you first came to Hekima because you would have learned so much from the larger Jesuit experience. It is easier said than done, but believe me, when you look back, you will be grateful that you were able to be patient and allowed yourself to learn what the system has in store for you. So the Magis is great but is not easy to achieve and we have to commit ourselves to it.

In the Jesuit Religious Order, a person coming to undertake the bachelor's degree in theology is usually mature, has a master's degree or even a Ph.D., has done two years of regency, and is well-advanced career-wise, compared to students from other congregations who are usually fresh from philosophy. The combination of the two in a first-year bachelor of Theology class might prove challenging, both for the faculty and the students. Dr. John-Okoria's take on this as an outgoing principal.

If someone comes to an academic community like Hekima with a mindset that "Oh I am already a Ph.D. holder, I am well informed!" it actually means you don't know anything, and you are deluding yourself. For one, the Theology degree is one of those comprehensive degrees that you can't actually claim that you know everything about. That's why they have the comprehensive exam at the end and the weight of the marks is actually at the end after the comprehensive exam. This is to see to what extent you have been able to synthesize all the various aspects of this field and that is not something that you claim that you already know.

people who have come to Hekima with higher degrees are quite humble and they actually show you that this is the rich experience they are having. Therefore we need to be humble about this journey of knowledge.

So while you are here, you should be grateful that you have an opportunity for three years to do a synthesis to link some of the Ecclesiology, and Christology and see how these all fit together. There is always something new to be learned from the experience even for some of us who are already ordained. Therefore the process of learning should be very humble, and the more humble one is, the more they learn; if you are arrogant, trust me you are actually on the wrong track to knowledge because you will just be recycling the thing in your head rather than actually engaging with other facts and figures and for the experience and coming up with a synthesis that would actually make you be a knowledgeable person. But to be fair, I think most of the people who have come to Hekima with higher degrees are quite humble and they actually show you that this is the rich experience they are having. Therefore we need to be humble about this journey of knowledge.

Dr. John-Okoria's take on exam irregularities (Malpractices & Plagiarism) at Hekima

My advice on the part of the administration is that there should be zero tolerance for cheating. But that is something that you leave to the administration. I would say that cheating is the result of a culture that is created in the academic community. Over the years in my homilies and in my address to students, I tried to tell people to avoid this competitive approach to education. That is why I don't believe in ranking students, I find it childish. People come with different strengths and qualities to learning and it is our duty to evaluate and appraise the different strengths that they bring to education. So when you start testing only memory, then the few people who are good at memorizing of course will come first; but is that education? Of course not. Some students have been asking me if they want to go to Santa Clara University or Harvard, they have to get first class; but my advice to students on that is, if you create an approach to learning where you are all learning together, you will all pass or fail together. So as a class, it should not only be one student shining; why do you want to be a first-class student when someone is failing and you feel it is not your responsibility; that is not education! We need to create a culture where students learn together, and where students support each other such that if one student is having difficulty in a certain area, he or she can reach out to the next student and to us lecturers and professors we should not emphasize the ranking model of education where one student stands out while the others are struggling; it means there is a problem.

If we truly are a learning community, then our results should reflect the fact that we are a community of learners. Gone are the days when you would have a single individual discovering gravity, sitting down by himself and an apple falls and the guy has discovered gravity; no! if you look at the current scientific trends, it is now a community of scientists coming together and each contributing knowledge based on his/her own area and together they come up with something magnificent as a scientific community. That's the direction learning should go. If we emphasize working together rather than competing with each other, there will be little or no cheating, there would be no reason to cheat in an exam at all because cheating is simply a result of the competitive mode of education. So Hekima administrators, lecturers, professors, and students, we should take this up as a challenge and challenge each other. I shouldn't be in a class getting first class while someone else is stuck down there, why not journey with each other? There are a few students I don't want to mention names who took it upon themselves to assist fellow students by studying together, this should be encouraged more.

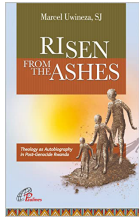


Courses he taught at Hekima

As an educationist I designed this course called the Theology of Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP), I felt that in as much as there are many Jesuit Educational Institutions around the world, one may therefore ask, what makes a Jesuit Institution different, what makes Hekima different so it was important for me to put a course together that helps to accentuate this uniqueness of our education. And that is how I came up with the Ignatian Pedagogy paradigm as a Course. I was very happy to see the majority of the students over the years I have been a Jesuit and many of them have been in education and some of them hope to be educationists in the future and the whole idea is to see how St. Ignatius way back in the 16th century designed the ratio studiorum and created a very unique way of teaching and it is the vision of education that is rooted in the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius, to be able to articulate that into a paradigm of education, and share this with the students, for me was very good. I am glad that quite a number of students have been able to be part of it. This was an elective course and as I leave I am sure the college from time to time will bring in experts in that area who might be interested in taking up the course. Given that the majority of the faculty are Jesuits, I am sure they will continue to have the Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm course.

The other course I taught is Christology in the Theology for the Laity program. I was fascinated with Christology because it goes straight into the question of Who is Jesus? and Jesus himself asked the disciples Who do you say that I am? Christology is a course that attempts to answer the question of who Jesus is and it is a way in which I think many of the other fields in theology have answered the same question, Who is this Jesus? And we look at all the heresies and problems in the course of history that have been as a result of how that question is answered. And you take for example the idea that Jesus is God and man, how can he be God and man at the same time? If he is a man, that means he is a creature and can be annihilated but a creator. So in the context of Christology in a class of theology where it fits an understanding, you can ask the question Can the father annihilate the son? So you see when you now recite the creed, begotten not made, you see why that line is there. Christ is begotten not made, therefore in that sense, Christ is not a creature. Therefore getting to know Jesus in the context of the classroom is a beautiful experience that I would even recommend for lay people. You don't have to be studying for the priesthood. But as Christians, we are telling the world that this person Christ is God. Christianity is about this particular person Christ, it is not about a set of roles to be followed. It is a relationship with one person who is Christ and therefore it is important to know who this person is in order to be able to answer both at individual and communal levels, "Whom do you say that I am?" So I was very happy to teach Christology.

Faculty Publications

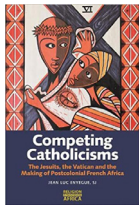


Title: Risen from the Ashes: Theology as Autobiography in Post-Genocide Rwanda

Author: Marcel Uwineza, SJ

Publisher and Year of Publication: Nairobi: Pauline's Publications, 2022.

Price: Kindle (\$7) hardcover (7.50)

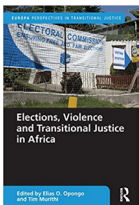


Title: Competing Catholicism: The Jesuits, the Vatican, and the Making of Postcolonial French Africa

Author: Jean Luc Enyegue, SJ

Publisher and Year of Publication: Suffolk, UK: Boydell & Brewer Ltd, 2022.

Price: Kindle (\$29) Hardcover (\$72.86)

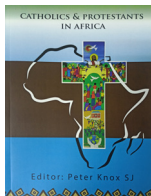


Title: Elections, Violence, and Transitional Justice in Africa

Editors: Elias Opongo and Tim Murithi

Publisher and Year of Publication: Routledge; 1st edition 2022.

Price: Kindle (\$48.85) Hardcover (\$157.84-\$175.61)

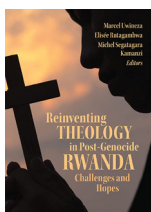


Title: Catholics and Protestants in Africa

Editor: Peter Knox, SJ

Publisher and Year of Publication: Nairobi: JHIA, 2022.

Price: Hardcover \$ 7.50

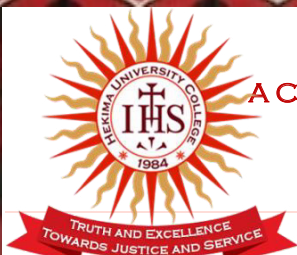


Title: Reinventing Theology in Post-Genocide Rwanda Challenges and Hopes

Editors: Marcel Uwineza, SJ, Elisee Rutagambwa, SJ, Michel Segatagara Kamanzi, SJ

Publisher and Year of Publication: Georgetown University Press, 2023.

Price: Kindle (\$93) hardcover (124)



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HUC@40

10 May 2023

For 40 years, Hekima University College (HUC) has maintained its mission as a center for excellent formation, research and intellectual scholarship committed to offering a high-quality, integral, and contextualized education founded on the finest traditions of the Jesuit humanistic and scientific heritage.

Our Legacy

HUC nurtures people to become faithful servants and global citizens in the Society of Jesus, religious congregations and the church. Some notable examples are in the service of the church as bishops, councillors of their various congregations, presidents of religious conferences, members of Vatican Commissions; many men and women who are laboring in some marginalized communities and attending to the needs of the poor in inaccessible villages; principals, deans, and rectors of universities and colleges; and others in positions of service in the Church and society.

Our Growth

From a modest beginning in 1984, our Jesuit School of Theology remains open to other congregations that seek excellent formation for their men and women. As a result, fifteen religious congregations participate in the mission of Hekima. HUC also offers ecclesiastical degrees awarded by the Faculty of Theology of the Jesuits in Africa and Madagascar (FTJAM) in the name of the Holy See.

Responding to the African continent's dire need for peace and reflecting on the ever-escalating wars and conflicts, in 2004, HUC opened its second school, Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (<https://hipsir.hekima.ac.ke/>), which offers a Master of Arts degree and certificate courses. The institute encourages and promotes research on the dynamics of conflict situations, ongoing international and regional peace processes, refugees and displaced persons, and human rights issues.

HUC has launched new centres of excellence: the Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (<https://www.jhia.ac.ke/>), Centre for Research Training and Publications (<https://crtp.hekima.ac.ke>), partnership with the Hilton Scholarship Program, and collaboration with the Jesuits of Eastern Africa aimed at becoming a full-fledged university. HUC also hosts the Jesuit Centre for Safeguarding in Africa (<https://jcsa.africa/>) that trains its students in awakening, awareness and action toward the safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults.

Celebrating 40 Years

HUC has many reasons to celebrate and thank God. The forty years of HUC's success would have been impossible without the immense contribution of many stakeholders, some of whom are deceased. Names like Henry de Decker SJ, Cecil McGarry SJ, Aquiline Tarimo SJ and Prof. Laurenti Magesa are eternally ingrained in HUC's memory. To celebrate **HUC's 40th anniversary (HUC@40)**, we will focus on some initiatives to expand HUC's academic and institutional growth. These initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- a. A conference on the History of HUC highlighting the contribution of its pioneers.
- b. Inauguration of African Theology Chair at HUC.
- c. A symposium on Prof. Magesa's contribution to African theology.
- d. Bringing together African women theologians/peacebuilders and amplifying their voices.
- e. A conference with HUC Alumni who work in different fields of the Church and society.

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HEKIMA UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Post Graduate Programs

Master of Art in Peace Studies & International Relations

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Bachelor of Theology and Ecclesiastical Degrees,

Baccalaureate in Theology

Certificate Programs

Certificate in Retreat Direction,

Certificate in Theology for the Laity,

Certificate in Safeguarding

Certificate in Conflict Resolution, Peace Building, and Reconciliation.

Certificate in Project Management

Our Campuses:

Undergraduate Campus—Joseph Kangethe Road, off Ngong Road

Post Graduate Campus—Riara Road, off Ngong Road

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