

# Kusifa, Kubariki, Kuhubiri

*(To Praise, to Bless, to Preach)*

MISSION NEWSLETTER OF THE DOMINICAN MISSION OFFICE  
PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH  
NEW YORK, NY

Dear Brothers,

March 2018

Greetings in the Lord.

We in the Mission Office are sending you another newsletter about what is happening in the Vicariate of Eastern Africa. Hopefully, this will help you in any preaching you do on behalf of the Mission Office for our annual effort to raise funds for the Vicariate.

The Province of St. Joseph is engaged in the work of developing a new province for the Order of Preachers in Eastern Africa. We want to develop the local preachers for the People of God there. Our Lord's Incarnation and his Way of the Cross remind us of the dignity of everyone. He came to save all and to proclaim the Kingdom of Love to all. The Province of St. Joseph participates in this ministry of reconciliation with God in many ways. We are heeding Jesus' injunction to the Apostles to call to repentance, baptize, and teach. The Vicariate was established in March 1991 and since that time has undergone a remarkable growth in its personnel, communities, and ministries from when it was just a few friars from the US Provinces doing a few individual ministries. Some of this was detailed in the previous issue. This issue is about more recent developments which confirm the hope that was present at the beginning.

Kevin Kraft, OP sent out a letter detailing the ministries at St. Catherine of Siena in Nairobi and the progress of developing the new church. He, also, mentioned his new ministries. And St. Dominic's Priory in Nairobi has sent some information on the teaching ministry of some of the friars there. We've combined some of these letters with other information we have received on the communities. Overall, we have some very good news concerning our Vicariate of Eastern Africa and its development. The year 2017 saw many new developments there. These concern new missionaries, a happy celebration of one of the friars in Kenya, a new status for one of our communities, and a new ministry undertaken by the members of the Vicariate. These are all exciting new developments made possible by your generosity in prayers and sacrifices for the mission as well as the sharing of your treasure. Enjoy reading about these events and milestone.

May St. Dominic inspire you, Our Lady, the Mother of God, guide and protect you, and God bless you as you continue the ministry of Jesus.

In the love of the Sacred Heart and St. Dominic,

David Adiletta, OP  
Secretary for the Missions

## THE FRIARS

On February 1, 2017 Gregory Maturi, OP arrived in Nairobi, Kenya to begin his new assignment in the Vicariate of Eastern Africa. During his first few months, he became familiar with the friars and ministries of the Vicariate, as well as studying the language of Swahili. He is assigned to the community of St. Martin de Porres in Kisumu, KE. He will be in charge of developing a retreat center on the Hawthorne property as well as giving retreats there.

Kevin Kraft, OP will move to St. Martin's priory in order to assist in the retreat ministry. May this prove to be a fruitful and rewarding ministry for both of them.

At the end of July 2017, Joseph-Mary Herzog, OP arrived in Nairobi, Kenya to begin his new assignment in the Vicariate of Eastern Africa. He has been getting familiar with the Vicariate. He is assigned to the community of St. Dominic in Nairobi, KE. He will be engaged in the teaching ministry at two locations: Tangaza College where students go for their theological studies, and the seminary of the Apostles of Jesus. May his ministry be fruitful and enjoyable in educating Religious Brothers, Sisters and Priests of the Church.

In May 2017, Dominic Mutuku, OP received his STL from the Dominican House of Studies. He will be using his academic skills to teach in the Vicariate.

On August 3, 2017, Br. Privatus Jamhuri Sharbel Sulusi, OP made his Solemn Profession at St. Dominic's House. Usually, the profession would be made on August 8, the feast of St. Dominic. However, this year in Kenya the country was holding national elections on that date. Since the situation was tense leading up to the elections, the Vicar Provincial with his Council decided to hold the profession early to avoid any political violence which may arise and making travel difficult. The day was a very joyful one. Congratulations Br. Sharbel!

(Thankfully, while there was some violence at the time of the elections a few days later and for some time after the elections, the friars were able to continue with their ministries and studies in relative peace.)

On the feast of St. Dominic in Kisumu at St. Martin's priory, the novices made their First Profession. They are Br. Francis Brian Ng'ang'a Ndichu, OP, and Br. Richard Lwanga, OP. Congratulations to these brothers!



Sharbel making Solemn profession.





His parents and family.



### THE COMMUNITIES

The Vicar Provincial and his Council, on behalf of all the friars, petitioned the Prior Provincial and his Council to elevate the status of St. Dominic’s House to a priory. This permission was accepted and fulfilled at the September 2017 Provincial Council. Therefore, St. Dominic’s House is now called St. Dominic’s Priory. As such, the members of the community are now able to elect their own prior.



St. Dominic's priory.

The election of a prior was conducted shortly after the elevation of the community to a priory. Dominic Mutuku, OP was elected the first prior of St. Dominic's Priory. Dominic was professed in 2003 and ordained in 2011.

St. Martin de Porres Priory (established as a priory in 2010), also, held an election for their prior. They elected Stephen Lumala, OP. He had served as Superior and later as Prior at an earlier time. He was professed in 1997 and ordained in 2001.

The elevation of St. Dominic's to a priory is significant, because according to our legislation, in order for a vicariate to become a vice-province it must fulfill several requirements. One of those requirements is to have two priories in its territory. The other two requirements which still need to be fulfilled, is the number of friars in the Vicariate and being financially independent from the mother province. In due time, we believe these will be fulfilled with God's blessings and the help of many friends of the Vicariate.

## THE MINISTRIES

The Provincial and his Council gave permission in May 2017 for the Vicariate to seek to be the sponsors of the Institute of Social Communication (ISC) at Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya. The friars then submitted their application to Tangaza College to be the sponsors of the ISC and it was accepted in August. Therefore, with the new academic year beginning at the end of August 2017 the friars have assumed the sponsorship of this Institute. This means they will be filling several positions of the ISC including director. Currently, the only position held by the friars is Jude Mmassy, OP as the director. Jude was professed in 1999 and ordained in 2008. Other positions will be filled at a later date. (Maury Schepers, OP had held this position in the 2006-07 academic year.)

The ISC is involved in training those who will work in the areas of communication. This includes broadcast and print journalism, community development, radio broadcasting, radio and television production and support, and all the various personnel associated with these careers. The students study the various topics related to these positions. This includes not only an understanding of the relevant technology and liberal arts, but also, the Catholic theological and moral principles relevant to being a disciple in order to proclaim the Truth.

Several of the friars are involved in teaching at Tangaza College and its various Institutes: Maury Schepers, OP; Vinny Wiseman, OP; Dominic Mutuku, OP; Jude Mmassy, OP; Joseph-

Mary Hertzog, OP; and Cleophas Tesha, OP. There have been a number of others who have worked there over the years.

The parish of St. Catherine of Siena in Nairobi continues to raise funds for the building of its new church. The roof has been completed, so the structure is usable for worship. So far, it has been used for special occasions such as fundraising events. The contractor and the parish committee decided to add some additional rooms to the region beneath the main floor rather than just having filler. This was a more practical use of the space and will give the parish more options for doing ministry. (see pictures below)

In Kisumu, the friars of St. Martin's Priory are beginning a new retreat ministry. They have a ten acre plot of land with various buildings. This was originally a family home, then sold to the Dominican Sisters of St. Rose for their ministry to the poor cancer patients. The Sisters sold the property to the friars upon leaving Kenya. The friars are now offering retreats to Sisters, Brothers, Priests, and Laity. As they proceed with the ministry the buildings and grounds will be upgraded to be a suitable environment for these retreats. Greg Maturi, OP and Kevin Kraft, OP will be the initial retreat masters and administrators of the property.

## OTHER NEWS

Since Fr. Jude, OP was the Syndic for the Vicariate, a new friar had to be appointed to that position. At the November 2017 Provincial Council meeting, Leo Mwenda, OP's name was submitted for the position. This was accepted by the Provincial and his Council. Leo was professed in 2006 and ordained in 2014. May God bless his ministry to the Vicariate. He recently earned his STL degree from the Louvain and is working on his doctorate from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

## FUTURE

This year the friars of the Vicariate will hold their annual Assembly at the end of July, beginning of August as per usual. But this year they will, also, be gathering to elect a new Vicar Provincial. Please pray for this important manifestation of the Spirit's presence in the life of the Vicariate. Please keep all of our brothers and their ministries in your prayers, so that they may be faithful to the mission of proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ to all people.

We in the Mission Office and in the Vicariate are always praying for you. You are remembered in our prayers and Masses. We appreciate the help you provide during the Spring, Summer, and Fall for the Missionary Cooperative Program appeals. We appreciate your sacrifices and prayers on behalf of our efforts to preach the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection in all the towns and villages. Even if you are not actually preaching these appeals you are helping those who do preach them by taking on extra duties at home. We preach Christ, and him crucified. Woe to us if we do not preach! Without you we would be severely limited in our ability to fulfill our mandate.



## Appendix A:

Some pictures of the new St. Catherine of Siena church:



Pictures of the exterior: the tower.



Painting the tower.



The new rooms added.

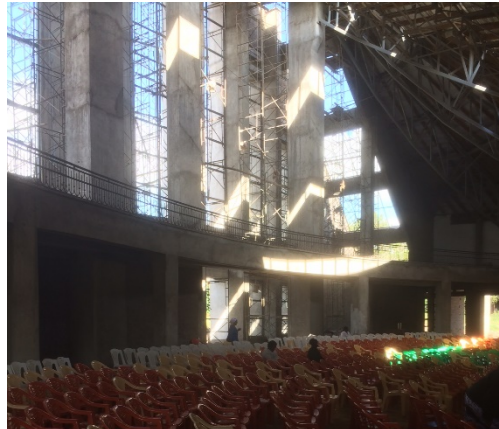


Interior space of one of the ministry rooms.





The interior worship space, set-up for Mass and a fundraising event (Harambee).



The bright windows of the tower.



St. Catherine of Siena House