



**EAST AFRICA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 168**  
**MONDAY OCTOBER 31st, 2011**

Greetings from Nairobi.

**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

*... have patience with everything unresolved in your heart  
and to try to love the questions themselves  
as if they were locked rooms or books written  
in a very foreign language.  
Don't search for the answers,  
which could not be given to you now,  
because you would not be able to live them.  
And the point is, to live everything.  
Live the questions now.*

*~ Rainer Maria Rilke ~*

*(Letters to a Young Poet, translated by Stephen Mitchell)*

**VOCATION BYTE OCTOBER 31st, 2011**

On Friday, the first 'postulant' for 2012 processed the passport, a start. Peter Ngeno, an aspirant secondary teacher in Eddoret, was delighted by the Eldoret community hospitality and sharing. I visited Karen and Langata communities with Laurence Agallo, a primary teacher at Waithaka. Vincent Kaudu and Richard Omwange just graduating from KU have recently visited our community at South C. Last week, I had unexpected phone applications from Machakos, Bungoma and Naivasha (flower farm). All this looks appealing till I remember the ongoing often frustrating hard slog to get the would be 2012 postulants to the barrier. And I can't escape it! **Let's send good, intentional energies to the strugglers.**

**500 CLUB FUNDRAISER FOR RUBEN CENTRE**

Last week I put a note in the newsletter about the O'Brien family and to ask for prayers on the occasion of the death of Carmel. The day before her funeral was the planned fundraising luncheon, organised primarily by her son, Pat, and his committee. This is a marvellous commitment to Africa during a time of personal grieving and we are so grateful. I am told it was a great success and Frank O'Shea had a skype link up during speeches. If you are interested in reading more about this luncheon, try the following link

<http://www.cam.org.au/melbourne-news/500-supporters-group-gather-for-luncheon-fundraiser.html#RacingLunch>

GERARD ELLUL



**REMEMBRANCE RITUAL AT STH C ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5TH**

The South C Community invites the Brothers of Nairobi to a Remembrance Prayer Ritual and Prayer and Supper 6.30 pm Fri 5 November.

The Remembrance ritual will give us an opportunity to pray with Brothers who have lost loved ones in the past year, to remember deceased family members and friends and to remember Brothers Selestino and Ambrose who have gone before us.

Community leaders are requested to let Russell (email or text on 0705 980 341) know by Wednesday evening the numbers from their Community who are wishing to attend.

RUSSELL PETERS

**HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP AT ST. JUDE ACADEMY- HURUMA ELDORET**

The community of St. Jude Academy celebrated the feast of St. Jude, the patron of the school, on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2011. The peak of the celebration was on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2011 when the school hosted a workshop on HIV/AIDS. Sixty nine people attended the workshop this time. Br. Cornel Mwiru and other facilitators from the HIV/AIDS Office of Catholic Diocese of Eldoret helped the participants to know how to handle challenges which are connected with HIV/AIDS. Participants were able to ask questions which were well answered by the facilitators. During the evaluation participants asked for more copies of the hand outs. I hope to work on the photocopies of the nutritional document which were in high demand. Thanks to the facilitators and Christian Brothers who enabled this workshop to take place through their financial and community educational support.



AUGUST KESSY



**EDMUND RICE KARIBU CAMP**



This was the seventh camp conducted by ERKN on the small ground of St. Stephen’s school since the demolition of our original site in February. The camp began at 9.00 am. 35 young children attended. Leaders present were Patrick, Duncan, Godfrey, Karanja, Maurice, George, John, Miriam, Rufina with Freddy as the ever active coach and animator. Though the ground was wet and muddy as can be seen by the picture, things went well. All the kids were happy and jovial and joined energetically with the vigorous activities. We closed the camp at 3.00 after lunch and the leaders’ debrief. The leaders organized well without the presence of Br. Peter and Br. Sande. We were blessed.

DUNCAN ARARA

**A SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY STORY**

Last week there was a short story about the Ndeini Primary School (in Kibwezi area) and the water harvesting project. The funds for this were provided by Shalom College and Cathedral College in Queensland, Australia. However, there is a happy new addition to this story. In Johnstone’s address to the parents, staff and students during our visit last week, he encouraged them to invite the local Ministry of Education District Education Officer (DEO) to visit and to lobby for support from the government to rehabilitate the school rooms. Apparently this was done and the local DEO was very impressed with the project and gave further funds to purchase another water tank to add to the three that are in place! Some initial talks have also begun concerning government funds being made available for classroom refurbishment.

GERARD ELLUL

**BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

02	PAUL MUTUKU (Embulbul)	10	MARTIN KHAEMBA (Cape Town)
15	GERARD ELLUL (Sth C)	28	CHANDA MUBANGA (Karen)

**CALENDAR**

Nov 8 – 28	Gerard away visting SA novitiates, PLT meeting and first profession.
Nov 26	First Professions in Lusaka and Cape Town
Dec 3	Reception for newly professed
Dec 5 – 8	Africa ERN conference in Nairobi
Dec 9 – 10	Weekend gathering for community leaders with the PRT.
Dec 15 – 18	District Assembly
Dec 19	Meeting of DLT with Francis Hall

Peace,  
Gerard

