

JUST CONCLUDED EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY MEETING HELD IN ZAMBIA LUSAKA- IN FAUSTINO HOUSE on 23RD TO 25TH APRIL 2010.

The communities travelled by road for the meeting. The Kenya representative enjoyed a 3 days trip on the road – traversing Tanzania through Tunduma border of Zambia and Tanzania. It was tiresome but enjoyable as we interacted with cross-cultural inhabitants.

We finally arrived amid warm welcome by Zambia and Malawi communities who were already at the venue and well received by the Faustino (host) SM community. We felt at home almost immediately.

The Faustino house in Zambia is a formation house where aspirants into joining the Society of Mary are received for formation. During our visit, there were five aspirants in the house. We lived together surrounded by their warmth, hospitality and support of their formatters Fr. Mike (SM) and Bro. Soko (SM.). May God bless them all!! The priest took us round the compound to familiarize ourselves. It was exciting as he explained why every plant was in place on the garden.



From left: Ann, Josephine, Fr. Mike (SM), Micah, Francisca and Priscah. And on the next photo right are: Felistus, Jackline and Fr. Mike.

Behind is the Faustino house which is full of life by the virtue of its inhabitants.



As you enter the compound, there is a wonderful portrait of our Mother Mary- Wow!
The new E.A Regional Council of Marianist Lay Community.



From left: Mark Dziko the new president, Josephine the head of temporality, Francisca is the Deputy president, Felistus the out-going president, Prisca is the head of education, Ann a council member, Micah the head of spirituality and Fr. Calistus Jeje the spiritual advisor.

Fr. Calistus and Felistus helped the team through discussions and election process. He stressed that the future of Marianist family lies with the lay and thus we should work hard towards bring forth the very desire light as Blessed Fr. Chaminade did amidst difficult situations.



It was finally the serious business as we deliberated on the meeting agenda.



To avoid burn-out- we enjoyed interactions/sharing as we stood in the very therapeutic



We walked around and feasted together with aspirants who kept us well entertained and fed.

THE MEMBERS:



Mark Dziko from Malawi



Francisca from Zambia



Prisca from Malawi



Fr. Callistus Jeje(SM) from Kenya.



Feistus from Kenya



Josephine from Kenya



Ann Kihagi from Kenya

Micah from Zambia.

AND ON SUNDAY.....



On Sunday, we had a joyful Mass at Marian Chapel. The youths were celebrating the Vocation day and the new Eastern Africa Regional leaders were installed. Fr. Jeje (SM) was the main celebrant.



On the left is sharing meeting with the Zambia community of Lay Marianist immediately after Holy Mass where we later shared a meal. On the right are some of the Zambia's Young Faustino group who were extremely interested to know more about the Faustino group in Kenya. The plans to Twin the two groups were made. The boys and girls were extremely happy to think of having friends who they can share and pray online. Ann Kihagi: posing for a photo with them promised to help them realize the desire.



Felistus Kyulu as jovial and funny like ever took some good time playing and posing for photos with Jackline (Faustino family puppy). There were good fun moments though we at times went to bed past mid-nights as we sat in group discussions.

The photo of the day



When we could not all fit in the Matero community car, these two humble servants of Mary had to travel find some space in the boot. In the boot are Fr. Callistus and Bro. Daniel. Besides the car is Mrs. Nkatak (Zambia) who was with us all the way till she saw us settled in the bus ready for our 33hrs continuous journey, to Dar-Tanzania where we boarded our next bus to Kenya for another 15hrs to Nairobi, and later another 8hrs to Mombasa for some. We thank God and our Mother Mary for the success and the strength that made kept us going on and on till the end.

TO HIM BE ALL THE GLORY.....