

**Fr Sylvery Nkuu  
Silver Jubilee**



On September 8th 2015, Fr. Sylvery Felix Nkuu will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood in the presence of his Pallottine confreres and his family and friends in Gallapo parish, Tanzania. On the same occasion two students from Kenya, Cyril Ingosi and Dedan Munyinyi, will make their perpetual consecration in the Society. (Four Irish students, Brendan McCarrick, Jaimie Twohig, Liam O'Donovan and Charles Lafferty will make perpetual consecration on September 12th in Thurles). As we celebrate this joyous milestone in Fr Sylvery's life, we thank God for the blessings and good work of his priesthood.

Fr. Sylvery is a native of Makiungu parish in Singida, Tanzania. He was born on the 15th of August 1957 in Wibia, Singida region, grew up there and received his early education from 1963 to 1975 in Wibia primary school.

Sylvery felt that God was calling him to be a priest. At St. Patrick's Junior Seminary, Dungunye, he did four years of secondary level education, and he completed his studies in Songea in 1982. During that time he reflected and prayed on his call to join the Pallottines.

In compliance with a new government law requiring a compulsory year of national service, Sylvery did his training in Mgambo, Tanga, in 1982-83. He was then sent to Kibosho Senior Seminary in Kilimanjaro to continue with philosophy studies for a year.

A decision was made by the Provincial Council that a part of Pallottine formation should take place in Ireland, so Sylvery and two other candidates from Tanzania were sent to Milltown Park Institute of Theology and Philosophy in 1984. He completed his studies there in 1986 and then returned to East Africa. From 1986 to 1989 he did his theological studies at the Hekima Jesuit College of Theology, Nairobi, and was ordained a deacon by Bishop John Njue on the 11th of November, 1989.

After a year of pastoral experience he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard Mabula on the 15th of July 1990 in Makiungu. His first appointment was to Bashnet where he ministered from 1990 to 1991. He then worked as vocations promoter and assistant Parish Priest of Gallapo from 1991 to 1993. He served in Nangwa for nine months. From 1994 to 1998 he worked as a curate in Sacred Heart parish, Nairobi.

Sent to the Regina degli Apostoli International College, Rome, in July 1998, he graduated with a master's degree in Spirituality and Ecumenism. Fr. Sylvery returned to Tanzania in 2000 and was appointed Parish Priest of Nangwa, where he served until 2009. In June 2009 he was appointed to Siuyu parish where he is still ministering.

Fr. Sylvery, on the celebration of your 25th anniversary of ordination. Your Silver Jubilee occurs in a very special year, the celebration of 75 years of our Charism in Tanzania. This is also the Year of Consecrated Life as proclaimed by Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 'Lumen Gentium'. This is a year of grace for consecrated life.

Pope Francis in his apostolic letter, gives us food for reflection and lists a number of expectations for the Year of Consecrated Life. I quote just one: that the old saying will always be true: "Where there are religious, there is joy. We are called to know and to show that God is able to fill our hearts to the brim with happiness; that we need not seek our happiness elsewhere; that the authentic fraternity found in our communities increases our joy; and that our total self-giving in service to the church, to families and to young people, to the elderly and the poor, brings us life-long personal fulfilment".

religious, there is joy. We are called to know and to show that God is able to fill our hearts to the brim with happiness; that we need not seek our happiness elsewhere; that the authentic fraternity found in our communities increases our joy; and that our total self-giving in service to the church, to families and to young people, to the elderly and the poor, brings us life-long personal fulfilment".

Hongera sana. Congratulations.

**Upcoming Events**

**Pallottine Cemetery Sunday** will be on the 13th of September 2015 in the Pallottine College, Thurles. All are welcome to join us in the Concelebrated Mass at 3 p.m.

**Ordinations:** Deacons Alan Bukenya SAC and Simon Sserufambi SAC will be ordained to the priesthood on the 1st of November in St. Vincent Parish, Arusha, Tanzania.

**Please Help the Pallottines.**

Please cut out this form and return it with your donation.  
Please remember the Pallottines in your will. Thank you.

**MY GIFT TO THE PALLOTTINES**

Dear Fr. Martin Mareja, SAC  
I enclose an offering of ..... to help the Pallottines' mission to evangelise, educate and empower people.

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.**

Name .....

Address .....

Send to  
**Fr. Martin Mareja, SAC**  
**Pallottine Fathers Missions**  
**Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland**  
**Email: palmissions@gmail.com**

If you would like us to acknowledge your donation, please tick this box.

**Registered Charity Number: 20011826**

# Pallottine Voices

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate

Summer 2015

The Pallottine Fathers Missions Thurles Co Tipperary Ireland Tel. (0504) 23678/21202 Web. http://www.pallottines.ie Email: palmissions@gmail.com

*In This Issue: Year of Consecrated Life - Silver Jubilee - 75 Years in East Africa*



**Our Pallottine Year  
Fr Martin Mareja SAC**

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, Pope Francis decided to proclaim a Year of Consecrated Life. The year began on the 30th of November, 2014, the first sunday of Advent, and it will conclude with the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on the 2nd of February 2016.

In his apostolic letter addressed to "To all Consecrated People", Pope Francis lists a number of aims of the Year of Consecrated Life: to look at the past with gratitude; to look realistically at the present; and to the future with hope.

In the first of these aims he reminds all consecrated people *to look to the past with gratitude*. Indeed the Pallottine family has every good reason to look to the past with gratitude: this year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Pallottine presence in East Africa; the Pallottine

Missionary Sisters are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening of their first mission in Siuyu; we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the ordination of Fr. Sylvery Nkuu; and we celebrated this year the ordination to the priesthood of Paul Makita, and to the diaconate of Allan, Simon and Ronald.

As we pray and meditate on the Year of Consecrated Life with the rest of the Church, the Pallottine family in the Mother of Divine Love Province wishes to thank God for the Charism of St. Vincent Pallotti, and that the "the Love of Christ urges us on". (2 Cor, 5:14) Responding to the love of Christ in the present is our way of being Church and our way of responding to the needs of the Church which we serve and of the world in which we live. We do so looking to the future with living hope in our hearts, the hope generated by the continuous presence of Jesus with his Church.

In this summer edition of Pallottine Voices I wish to share with you, our friends, relatives and benefactors, events and happenings and our focus will be East Africa. We thank you all for your continued support and help. You have responded to the call of Pallotti that all are called to be apostles, each in his or her own life circumstances.

**Faraja Pallotti  
Clare Edwards with Salome and Hidaya**

It is almost five years since I first arrived in Tanzania, as a volunteer in the Esso area of Arusha at the foot of Mount Meru. When Fr. Michael O'Sullivan was home on leave in Milltown, Co. Kerry, he spoke about life in Esso where he was Parish Priest. A survey had indicated that there were many children and adults with disabilities and he asked if I would come to Tanzania to help them. I came initially for a month and the seeds of 'Faraja' were sown.

We started therapy and support services in a classroom in August 2010 and a year later we moved into the new Therapy Centre. I will never forget the joy and smiles on the Mama's faces as we entered the Therapy Room for the first time. They could not believe that the Centre was just for them and their children. 'Faraja' is a Kiswahili word that means 'Hope, Compassion and Encouragement' and Pallotti is the name given by Fr. Michael to the complex in which the Centre is located.

We now cater for 200 children and 75 adults, and 30 to 40 attend on a weekly basis. Many of the children have severe Cerebral Palsy, and had been locked away in a dark room with no light, while the Mama had to work to provide food

for herself and her family. Life is difficult for Mamas and having someone with a disability makes it even harder as there is no State support, and they would have to pay for any services, if available, which most of them could not afford.

At Faraja Pallotti we provide free therapy/services to all who come to our door. We give hope and encouragement and show compassion over a cup of tea and 'Vitumba'. After therapy, they share stories and give each other support.

The Centre could not operate without the wonderful staff, Salome the Occupational Therapist and Hidaya, the



Clare (centre) with Fr Michael, Staff and Mamas



Therapy Assistant, who deliver quality service with care and compassion. We try to visit their homes when people are unable to come to the Centre. We also visit other Centres and hospitals which have surgeons from Germany and USA who come once or twice a year and provide free surgery for those we refer to them. We only have to pay the hospital costs and we do the rehabilitation after surgery at Faraja.

We are currently working with a business called Shanga which trains and employs people with disability, to see if we can get some of our young adults to work in their workshop. This would provide some income for them and give them great self-confidence and empowerment. Shanga makes products for tourists and also exports to many parts of the world. We look forward to our continuing work with them.

During the last five years the greatest change I have seen is that the children and adults with disability are no longer confined or “hidden away” and that Faraja helps families to realise that they are not alone and isolated and that they can give valuable support to each other. Coming to the Centre dispels the myth that they are cursed, that it is their fault and that they deserve this Cross to bear. We showed the film “My Left Foot” at our May Day celebration and the Mamas cried because they did not think Mzungos (white people) had handicapped children. They also saw that ‘white Mamas’

had to work hard just like themselves, as they saw Brenda Fricker do in the film. It was an eye-opener for them.

At the end of our celebration Fr. Reginald Kimathi, our



The new Therapy Centre in Esso

Parish Priest, spoke with them and told them that every child is a blessing and to have courage and accept life as it is. He blessed them all and said to always remember that God loves each and every one of us just as we are. We have many Muslims who attend Faraja and it is wonderful to see them coming to the clinic and sharing their stories with us.

May the Holy Spirit of God fill our hearts with His love so that like the early Christians we may bear witness to that love in our fractured and broken world. On behalf of the children and adults and their families who attend Faraja Pallotti, we say “Asanteni Sana” for your generous support, and please keep us in your prayers.

now managed by a local committee, from the hire of the hall for weddings and other celebrations, which is used to cover wages and ongoing maintenance.



St Vincent Pallotti Church (and opposite)

A Training Centre with eight classrooms was next to be built and is home to the Kindergarten and Primary School, with over 250 children attending. It is managed by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The IT programme is going very well and is very popular, with good courses offered at accessible prices. On average, there are 25 students taking courses daily. Orla, an Irish volunteer, set up the school, and her good work and commitment over the years make it sustainable, with local teachers now running the programme. Last March she led another computer teacher training course in a remote village in Northern Tanzania.

We also run an Adult Education and Literacy programme and tuition courses for primary and secondary school students. We have an active “Living with HIV/Aids” group and various courses are offered. The participants have



## Esso Parish

### Fr Michael O'Sullivan SAC

St Vincent Pallotti Church will be opened officially on the 22nd of January 2016. It has been an extraordinary journey for all who have been involved. In 2006 it was only an outstation where the Pallottines celebrated a weekly mass. Since

then it has become a thriving and independent parish. We began with 120 Christians and now we have over 6000 members of our parish. I can happily say that Pallotti Parish is as exciting and as vibrant as the day I first set foot there.

What caused such a transformation in Esso in such a short time? From the first day we began ministering there, it started to take on a life of its own. People were happy and enthusiastic to be part of this new venture. Both local and overseas people offered their time by volunteering or contributing to the various projects. Among them was Vivienne who was instrumental in setting up the administration of the Project.

Apart from setting up a new parish, we were determined that our facilities be a contribution to the wider community and that they would have access to it by participating in sporting activities, recreation and education. Phase one was the construction of the Sports Hall and it has been put to great use, with Basketball, Netball, Volleyball and 7-a-side Soccer played every day. From 3 pm daily it is ‘alive’ with hundreds of youths using it. It also produces an income,

## Silver Jubilee Celebration

### Sr Mary McNulty SAC



The Silver Jubilee of the arrival of the Pallottine Sisters in Tanzania was celebrated on June 25th, 2015. For weeks the Sisters were busy preparing, and with those in Formation together with the parish choir recorded a CD called Jubilee Gift. A jubilee booklet giving the history of the last 25 years with contributions by various well-wishers was printed.

The maize field in front of the convent in Siuyu was transformed into a stage with five Jubilee tents and decorated with beautiful white, gold and blue material, the jubilee ‘vitenge’ (printed cloth) and many roses and lights.

At 10.30 bishop Desiderius Rwoma, the apostolic administrator of the diocese of Singida, proceeded to the newly built grotto of Our Lady Queen of Peace. After its blessing, all proceeded to the jubilee platform for the solemn holy mass. Three choirs – from the parishes of Siuyu, Makiungu and Igunga – led the joyful singing, all dressed in the special jubilee ‘vitenge’.

We were very happy that nineteen of our Pallottine priests were among the group of about forty-five priests who concelebrated with the bishop to thank God for His many blessings over the years. Four deacons assisted at the mass –

weekly meetings to support one another and run an income-generating project making soap for sale to households and companies in Arusha. Clare Edwards, another Irish volunteer, runs the Rehabilitation Centre for people with disabilities. We are also setting up an income-generating project for the parents and carers of the disabled who, as you can imagine, have many difficulties as they try to do the best they can for their children in very difficult situations.

It’s heartening to see the Pallotti Project running by itself, something we had hardly dared dream about or thought possible. Looking back, it is amazing to witness what has taken place and in such a short time. We thank God for it all and for the many people who made it possible. My only wish is that the people of Esso will see it as their own place, a resource that is a source of



two from the diocese and two Pallottines from Uganda. The newly composed anthem, “Silver Jubilee, Silver Jubilee”, rang out over the village of Siuyu.

In his sermon, the bishop praised and thanked the Sisters for their dedicated service to education, health care, and to the handicapped children in the diocese, and invited them to open a community in his home diocese of Bukoba.

After the Mass, Sr. Basilisa Jacob, vice-provincial, read a short history of the Pallottine Sisters in Tanzania. In 1990 three Sisters arrived from England to open the mission in Makiungu. Now there are forty-three local Sisters and three European Sisters working in Tanzania.

The local community presented gifts to the Sisters, who also received many gifts from the visitors.

We estimate that over a thousand people took part in the celebrations. We were honoured to have with us Sr. Josephina D’Souza, representing Sr. Izabela Swierad and the General Council in Rome, Sisters from England, South Africa and Rwanda, Fr. Hermes, a Pallottine priest from Malawi, and Rose Kathoka, a member of the Union from Dagoretti parish, Nairobi, Kenya.

All the visitors were invited to a meal in the convent, the Jubilee tents, the parish and school halls and under the trees near the tents. The celebration was a day of great blessing for the whole Pallottine family, a beautiful experience of joy, peace and goodwill among the people.

Now with love and confidence we look forward to the next 25 years, as we entrust our future to God our Father, to our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Apostles and to our holy founder, St. Vincent Pallotti.

Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

recreation, education and inspiration for all the people, now and into the future.

The new parish church is almost completed and the people are very happy to have this place of worship where they can cherish their faith and express gratitude for the difference this faith has made in their lives.

I am committed to overseeing the completion of the new church and also the school sponsorship scheme – where we have funding for the next few years – to educate 250 secondary school students each year.

### Retreats in the Pallottine College, Thurles

#### St Therese of Lisieux and the Justice and Mercy of God

Fr. Pat Collins: September 25th – 27th

Pallottine Lay Apostolate Retreat October 23rd – 25th

Do you want to be well again? Jn. 5:6

Fr. Pat Deegan: November 6th – 8th

Charismatic Renewal: Prayer – Praise – Teaching – Healing

Tom Dwyer & Fr. Emmet O’Hara SAC: November 20th – 22nd

The Coming of the Lord

Frances Hogan: December 4th – 6th