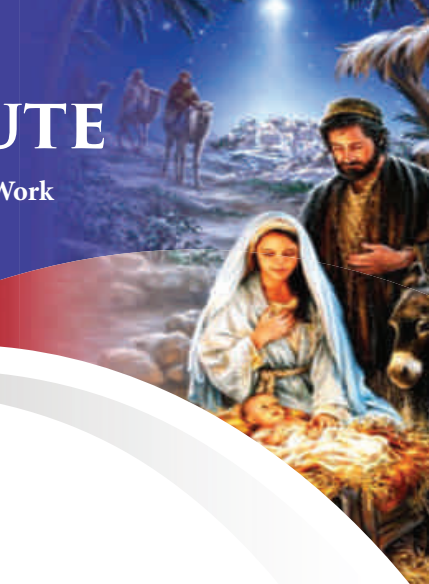




LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE

Fransaliam Centre for Philosophy, Pastoral Animation and Social Work
Maji ya Chai, P. O. Box 1187, Arusha, Tanzania



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LCI

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We are at the threshold of, yet another Christmas and the New Year. During this joyful season we recall with gratitude the First Christmas in Bethlehem unfolding heavenly Love to the humanity. The divine love made tangible to the world. The love incarnated in Bethlehem is extremely significant. The magic in incarnation is its simplicity, which amazingly unfolded in the life of - POOR KING EMMANUEL. Humility to lay in the dung and straw and in the smell of manger, easiness to bend to lift the other, acceptance to touch the untouched, daring charity to enter into the vulnerability of the other, passionate hunger to embrace the sinner, courageous sacrifice to fall and get up for the people in the dark tunnel of life.



As we celebrate this Christmas, the question that I would like to pose for each one reading this newsletter is: are we really intrigued to be moved by listening and seeing the sufferings of other person? Or we have frozen this magical truth as an unbearable truth into a moment in time – the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. As the saying goes LOVE is a decision. Decision to love generously, patiently, and promptly. God's unfathomable love incarnated for us, let us consciously and generously allow ourselves to fall deeply into this magic of love to lift and give life to the other- there we find our true self.

On behalf of the entire Lumen Christi Institute, I wish you and your families a happy and joyous Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2023. May the Babe of Bethlehem fill our hearts, homes and communities with his hope, love, peace, and joy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS



NEWS AND EVENTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The 13th academic year 2022-2023 of the Lumen Christi Institute was inaugurated on 1st September 2022, with the Eucharistic Celebration followed by the inaugural ceremony. The Eucharistic Celebration and the inaugural address were presided over by Rev. Fr. DEOGRATIAS MTIKA, IMC, Consolata Missionary, Lecturer at Jorden University, Morogoro. The Lectio Brevis was on the theme MAN'S SEARCH FOR TRUTH: FAITH AND REASON. The regular classes began on 2nd September. The classes are arranged from Monday to Friday, the classes consist of five periods for 40 minutes each from 08:40 am to 12:40 pm, comprising of one long break at 10.00 am and a short break at 11.50 am.



This year there are 59 students in total. The first-year students are 23 of which 4 students belong to the Congregation of the Missionaries of Hope, staying outside the LCI campus. The second-year students are 18 of which 2 belong to the Congregation of the Missionaries of Hope and the third-year students 18 in number. There are also students from various dioceses of Tanzania residing in the campus along with the MSFS scholastics. All the three batches have class coordinators who help in organizing the academic events.

There were four major events so far that were marked as holidays. The feast of Our Lady of Compassion, the patroness of the Congregation of MSFS on 15th September was observed as a holiday for the Institute. The feast of Fr. Peter Mermier, the founder of the Congregation of the MSFS on 30th September was observed a holiday, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere day on 14th October was a holiday as well with the flag hoisting ceremony and the 61st Independence Day of Tanzania on 9th December with the flag hoisting ceremony. As of now the exams are going on in the Institute and the students are appearing for the exams. On 3rd January, 2023 the second semester Classes are scheduled to begin.



SHARING FROM THE FORMATORS COURSE

I thank you Lord with all my heart, before the gods to you I sing. (Ps 138: 1). We the formators are very glad to be here in Lumen Christi Institute. We express our sincere gratitude to L.C.I community for the generosity and readiness to host us here to be formed and grow in our spiritual life, with the vision of transforming others in our very life.

Thanks to the LCI community for the warm welcome we received the first day when we arrived in this campus. Really, we could feel at home and accepted in this LCI family. Our special thanks to Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, who gave us first approach invitation to this campus. We really appreciate Fr. Thomas, for his concern and effort not only for us but also for those who have already passed through this institute and those who will join in the future. Fr. Thomas spent his time in taking us around the Campus to ensure that we are familiar with the environment and surroundings.



We extend our sincere thanks to Fr. Devasia Manalil, who accepted whole heartedly to Animate us through this formator's program. We remember the first moment we arrived here, we met him outside waiting to welcome us in the LCI family. Like a father he is orienting us and instilling in us a sense of family spirit which is binding our fraternity here in the campus. Fr. Devasia is a good inspiration for us and model to imitate in order to grow in our prayer life and more so in our community life.

All our dear Fathers of LCI, are ever ready to help us in our progress, they have been guiding us in various subjects though this formators course, and guiding us in our paper work. We also appreciate LCI Community, for all the arrangement for our stay here. The spiritual activities are given the at most priority to form us in Christ. The availability of spiritual activities like daily Eucharistic celebration, regular confessions, recollections and spiritual direction create good atmosphere for prayer, meditation and maturity in our spiritual life.

Apart from the spiritual and intellectual care, we are also provided with good, delicious food for our physical nourishment. We are also ensured with the health care with the dispensary facility. These few months of stay here we feel that it is God's blessing for us. God bless LCI.



GRADUATION OF THE CATECHISTS

After the three months of Catechetical Training, Nov 19, 2022 thirty five (35) Catechists were graduated. The Catechists were from the various dioceses of Tanzania: Archdiocese of Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Kigoma and Mbulu.

The first group had their course from August 25 - September 24, 2022. The second Catechetical Course conducted from September 26 - October 26, 2022. The third course is held from October 27 - November 25, 2022. For the Graduation Day (19th November, 2022), Rev. Fr. Eustaki Christian Tarimo, was the guest of honour. He presided over the Holy Eucharist Celebration and awarded the participants with a Certificate of Completion, and sent them officially for their ministry.



Fr. Eustaki Christian Tarimo appreciated the Lumen Christi Institute for organizing these Catechetical Courses for the effective evangelization of the peoples of Tanzania. In his homily, he reminded the Catechists to go and do their mission and to be constantly reminded that it is God who calls them and that they have to be the shining light of the Gospel in their parishes and in their community at large.

Catechists in their speech thanked the institute, especially Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, the Director of the Institute for the good services and the conducive environment that they received for the three months of their stay at LCI. They appreciated and thanked the Institute for the excellent teachers who took various classes for them. They also acknowledged that the knowledge gained will be very useful for their ministry and the evangelization goals of the Church in Tanzania by strengthening the role of laity in the Church.



EVENTS FROM THE FRANSALIAN HEKIMA SEMINARY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Fransalian Hekima School started off its new academic year with a motivational training for the teaching staff and students in the month of January. Our school had the highest enrollment for this year - 106 for the Form I, Form II- 87, Form III- 72 and Form IV- 40 totaling 306 students. Our school had great accomplishments this year. Academically, our school excelled well in the National examinations. The Form II emerged 2nd position out of 21 schools in the District Meru, For the MOCK exams 8th position among 98 schools in the CSSC exams. The Form IV's emerged 8th position out of 238 schools in the Regional MOCK, and 12th position out of 97 schools in CSSC Exams.



On 15th October we had the graduation ceremony for our 40 students, Form IV students who passed out this year. Co-curricular activities like sports and clubs were rejuvenated. There was a great effort toward environmental care save for the drought that slowed down our pace for making our campus greener.

With gratitude we remember our former Head Teacher Sr. Priya Rose, CMC and the former Manager Fr. Kuriam Kollapallil, MSFS for their dedication and commitment for the wellbeing and the progress of the school. The School welcomed the new Head Teacher Sr. Divya, FCC and the New Manager Fr. Kenneth Maina, MSFS.

We have already made work plans for the year 2023 whereby our staff will get ongoing training to better their profession and the students will get holistic formation for their mental, social and psycho-spiritual well being. With the experiences gained from the past five years, we are all set to begin the new academic year in January 2023.



REPORT FROM THE LCI DISPENSARY

In the footsteps of the Divine healer and following the example of St. Francis and St. Clare we the Franciscan Clarist Congregation started our loving services in lumen Christi Dispensary on 1st May 2022. We feel privileged to join in the healing ministry of Jesus as Jesus the great healer continue to heal many through us. We find this as one of the means of evangelization. We also aim at the well being of humanity suffering from various diseases and its consequences.



Every month almost 600 patients come to our dispensary with different illness. We along with other staff are fully happy and satisfied as we witness the healing that people receive through our services. Very often patients express their appreciation for our health service that we provide in our dispensary patients are always at ease with the atmosphere here at LCD and the way of dealing with the patients. We are providing awareness programs, health education, counseling, video clips on different health issues immunization through which people benefits a lot.



Time to time we conduct different meetings like Board meeting, Staff meeting, meeting with district health personals, managements helps to make our health services more effective and useful.

We appreciate and admire the wholehearted support and co-operation we receive from the management which make the running of the dispensary more smooth full. Within this short period of our experience in lumen Christi dispensary I can say that by the grace of God, thousands of people's have been saved and the people's faith and trust in God has been increased.

Today the health care field is facing multiple challenges including socio, political, religious and moral ones. Day by day new diseases are spreading due to undesirable lifestyle. The ordinary people are not able to afford treatment in hospitals in such situation our services are more relevant. Holy Father Pope Francis exhorts us to be faithful and to continue this apostolate of health care facing all the challenges in the light of Gospel...



FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF REV. FR. ABRAHAM MULLENKUZHIYIL, MSFS

Love Without Measure is a book published by Lumen Christy Institute to honor and celebrate a man of wisdom, knowledge, and gentleness; a man we have been living with and admiring throughout our lives; a man who led thousands through prayer as a priest, formed as a formator, informed as a teacher, evangelized as a missionary, and guided as an administrator: Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhiyil, MSFS. The festschrift is divided into five sections: Philosophy, Education, Mission, Formation, and Spirituality. It contains twenty-three scholarly articles including a short biography of Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhiyil and a brief foreword by Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General. The book was released on 25th May 2022, by the Superior General.



GRATITUDE AND WELCOME TO LCI STAFF MEMBERS



Our deepest gratitude to Fr. Kurian Kollapallil (former manager of Fransalian Hekima Secondary School, Fr. Murali Daniel Badri (member of the teaching staff of LCI) and Fr. Arockia Doss (former Dean of Studies) for their services to LCI. We wish every best to each of them for their future ministry!



Hearty Welcome to Fr. Kenneth Maina (as the new manager of Fransalian Hekima Secondary School), Fr. Kumar Rao (member of the teaching staff of LCI) and Fr. Ajish Antony (dean of Studies).



Our appreciation and thanks to CMC sisters for their collaboration with Lumen Christi Institute from May 2014 to May 2022 (8 years). Particularly, we thank the dedicated services rendered at the LCI dispensary by Sr. Rose and Sr. Daisy and in the Hekima School by Sr. Priya. We also remember with gratitude all the other CMC sisters who served the LCI Institute in their various capacities! We wish all of them every best in their future ministry!



Hearty Welcome to Fransican Clarist Sisters (FCC) of Delhi province to LCI Institute. We thank the FCC sisters for accepting our invitation and for their readiness to help us both at the dispensary and at Hekima School. We welcome three FCC sisters; Sr. Remeya, Sr. Clare and Sr. Divya.





YEAR OF SFS AND PLANTING 400 TREES





PICTURES OF THE NEW COMMUNITY HOUSE, LIBRARY AND LECTURE HALLS



Merry Christmas

—  —
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

