



# RELAF NEWSLETTER N°48

Brothers of the Christian Schools



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by the regional team.

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Editor-in-chief: Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI

Assistant editors : Brother Joan SALA COLL

Brother Simon Benedict KESIKI

Computer graphics and translation: Brother Urbain François ANDRINIRINA

Send articles: [relaf@lasalle.org](mailto:relaf@lasalle.org)

Website: [www.relaf.info](http://www.relaf.info)

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## EDITORIAL

### It's on everyone's mind

Education is an issue of global concern, particularly in the religious world. This is why the spiritual leaders of the major religions sat down around a table with Pope Francis to talk together about education. The meeting took place on 5 October 2021. This meeting took place after the launch of the Global Education Pact by Pope Francis. As we all know, education plays a fundamental role in promoting the universal values of care, respect, and solidarity. Religious leaders have understood that they are all invited to place themselves at the service of good by promoting open and inclusive education.

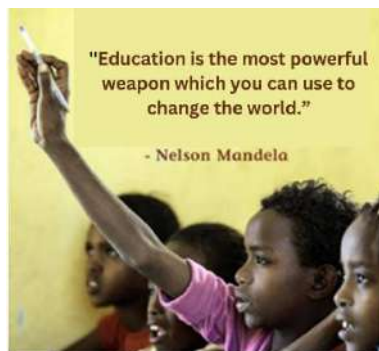
It is well known that religious people associate religious activities with educational, school, and academic activities. With the wisdom and humanity of their religious traditions, religious people are a stimulus for renewed educational action that can foster universal brotherhood in the world. The echo can be heard from Africa, where states are trying to agree to seek together how to follow the paths of new educational horizons.

From Ouagadougou to Yaoundé, from Antananarivo to Accra, from Kinshasa to Niamey, there are urgent calls for action on education. Some sub-regions manage to define together and share a common vision, for example, that of a West and Central Africa **"where all girls and boys arrive at school ready to learn, to receive a real apprenticeship and to enter the labour market with the right skills to become productive and fulfilled citizens"**. It's all very well to have a common vision, but governments are not living up to their commitment to invest more in education. Indeed, situations are not the same from one country to another. Some countries are making significant progress, but the majority are still a long way from achieving inclusive, quality education for all.

Recent studies by the World Bank reveal that a very large proportion of 10-year-olds are unable to read and understand a short, simple text. As long as governments do not set

themselves the objective of reducing learning poverty as a measure of progress in the quality of education and basic skills, any vision, however relevant, will never produce the expected results. The problem of lack of quality is compounded by discrimination against girls in access to education in Africa. The school enrolment rate for girls remains lower than for boys, especially at the secondary level.

It is in this context that the Lassallians try, wherever they are, to make their contributions, however modest they may be, to the education and training of African youth. Sincere political actors recognise the important contribution made by Lassallians and other private institutions.



If this recognition had been accompanied by substantial financial and material support, it would have helped private providers to raise the quality of their education and training offerings. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Even if everyone remains convinced that the school and academic results achieved by

private schools seem to be the best, this is not necessarily due to the quality of the provision. These better results need to be put into perspective because they are simply favoured by a context of poverty and a general drop in standards in African education systems.

In short, there are many calls for open, inclusive, quality education for all. To achieve this, we need to invest sufficiently in human and material resources and rely on the talents of each partner to enable education to play its fundamental role to the full: promoting universal values such as solidarity and fraternity for a fairer, more welcoming, and more humane society.

**Brother Anatole DIRETENADJI,  
General Councillor**

## **Visit of Brother Superior General and his Council to RELAF**

The visit of Brother Superior and his Council to RELAF took place from 5 to 18 November 2023. This follows on from other visits to other regions. The aim was to get closer to the grassroots and to get a first-hand feel of the realities of the mission in the 5 regions.

The General Council's visit to Africa took place in two stages: The first phase took place from 5 to 10 November. Brother Superior and the Councillors, in groups of two, three, or individually, visited certain Districts and the Delegation of Rwanda.

The second phase, from 11 to 18 November, was devoted to a face-to-face meeting with the Brothers Visitors of the Conference accompanied by other Brothers and lay people. The meeting took place at the Capuchin Brothers' St Padre Pio Spirituality Centre in Abidjan, in the commune of Cocody, an ideal setting for such a meeting.



It was the entire General Council community that visited RELAF. In addition to the Brother Superior General, the Vicar General, and the five General Councillors, there were also the General Secretary, the Executive Secretary of the General Council, and the Financial Director of the General Council. Also present were the Director of the La Salle Foundation, the Director of the Communications Office, and a member of the Solidarity and Development Office, who had come from Ouagadougou. In addition to the District delegates, there were also members of the regional team.

The programme for the meeting was very tight, but on the whole, everything went according to plan and in a very friendly atmosphere.

After the opening phase, the successive activities took place in short sessions alternating

between presentations, meetings in working groups and return to the room for plenary sharing. Among the speakers were Brother Superior General, Brother Carlos Gomez, and Brother Joël Palud. To break down the language barrier, everything was simultaneously translated into two languages (French and English). The meetings by working group were prepared by online questionnaires sent to those concerned. These questionnaires dealt with the life of the Brothers and vocation ministry, leadership, governance and transparency, the Association for Mission, and lay formation. Alongside these various meetings, the Brother Superior General had a personal interview with each Visitor. There was also an extended Conference with the members of the General Council, which was an opportunity to make a summary evaluation of the various visits made to certain Districts and the Delegation.

As it should be, there were also moments of discovery and relaxation. For those who had never been to Yamoussoukro, a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace and the Polytechnic University was a must. The Brothers Visitors took advantage of this time to visit the scholasticate and meet their young scholastic Brothers.

Shortly after the close of the meeting, the entire delegation travelled to the Akwaba home in Abobo to launch the 25-year jubilee festivities. It was an opportunity for the children of the home to showcase their skills in dance, song, and sketching. The audience was not bored.

The evening before departure was marked by a special dinner with Ivorian folk dancing and singing. It was a very pleasant moment not only for our guests but for everyone, including the scholastic brothers and their formators.

As in all meetings between Brothers and Lasallians, the moments of prayer were high points. Taking into account the diversity, the audio-visual means were precious in helping us to pray with one voice but in several languages.

Instead of using plastic bottles to dispense water, each participant was given a flask to fill as needed from a shared source of drinking water, thereby reducing the impact on nature and making a small contribution to environmental protection.

It's a small gesture, but it's worth it to protect our planet by minimising unnecessary waste that destroys nature. And everyone was delighted to take this useful souvenir home with them.

All that remains is for us to translate the conclusions of these meetings into action and everyday life so that they bear abundant fruit.

**Fr. Joan SALA COLL, Regional House**

## **A shared reflection on our Lasallian Mission**

We have pitched a tent with you this past week and now say thank you. We bring with us the experiences of our journey in the other regions of the Institute and with them, we express our gratitude for the wonderful things the Lord has done for us. The full Squadra, all ten of us, are here to say thank you to the region of Africa and Madagascar for welcoming us in your midst during the visits to your communities and ministries and the dialogues that happened in between.

We have come to share stories with you under the shade of the Baobab, the tree of life. We recognize the heroic courage of the pioneering missionaries who left their comfort zones to come to these parts. We drink from the fountain of their wisdom and celebrate the Lasallian legacy that continues to build God's reign here and now. Under the shade of the Baobab, there are no colonizers and there are no slaves. There are no superiors, no inferiors: we are all brothers and sisters and children of the same Father. Under the shade of the Baobab, we have a safe space to dare ask the difficult questions: have our schools contributed to a better life for the young people in our region? Are we repeating the mistakes of the past, or creating a new vision of a world where justice and peace reign?

We have come to learn from you the ancient wisdom of Africa that has been popularized in all other parts: *"It takes a village to raise a child."* With you, we rediscover our treasured Lasallian tradition of doing everything together and by association—never alone, always working with the Brothers in our community, all the communities in the District, all the Districts in the world until we can truly say we are One La Salle. The same challenge is before us as we learn to work together and by association with our Lasallian Partners—as partners on equal footing, no one wiser or better or holier but always working together for the benefit of the children entrusted to our care.

Inspired by this view that we live in a global village, we also reconsider our ministries and the challenges faced by our budding Lasallian universities. I share the hope that we can build a network of Lasallian universities in Africa so that instead of competing for meager resources, we build on our strengths. Just imagine if we can approach potential donors and bilateral partners with the prospect of working with a network present in seven countries instead of just one, or with a combined enrollment of close to 5,000 students instead of just 300. I pray we will be willing to share our poverty and practice co-responsibility. Just imagine if we can ask each Lasallian student in our schools to raise at least one euro a year for someone in dire need, then maybe we could raise more than one million euros sustainably every year for the Lasallian Mission. I hope and pray that we can look at the unused land in our region and transform it into a real resource for our ministries and a school for life lived in communion with nature. Just imagine if the La Salle Foundation can work with the region to be the Institute leader in transforming our unproductive land holdings into a garden of Eden. If we can do all these, then we can conquer that fear that Nelson Mandela describes: *Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.*

We are here to dream with you about the future of this region and also of the Institute. This time around we wish to re-set the world from a new perspective, a new pathway. Not the pathway of the colonizer. Nor of the powerful and rich. But from the ancient wisdom of **Ubuntu**. It is time for the Institute to learn the deeper meaning of **Indivisa Manent** by drawing inspiration from your wisdom: *I am what I am because of who we all are.* I can find my deepest self not by navel-gazing but going out in search of

my brothers, my sisters: *Ubuntu*. The Brothers may yet discover from you the deeper meaning of shared mission and why we have to share freely of the Lasallian charism. The pressure to seek resources to fund the mission may have a more exciting and sustainable future if we were to drink from your resilient spirit which has taught your forebears that, despite your differences, you can rely on each other to survive even the harshest conditions. We just have to learn from you how to live with respect and dignity intact as is most palpable among the women of your region, always dressed in dignified elegance. We need to also learn from you how to take things easy and not to be too anxious about things outside of our control: *hakuna matata!* As we learn the rhythm of your drums, the ululation of your voices, and the gentle movements of your dances, the Lasallian Family may yet rediscover the essence of our humanity and the reason for our fraternity.

Your Squadra will be back many times over to pitch our tents here again. The Institute needs to give due attention to RELAF since we all acknowledge that here before our eyes is the future of the Institute. We intend to engage you in a deeper, more fraternal way so that together we can recreate the Lasallian Mission. We wish to sit with you longer under the shade of the Baobab tree so that with you we can push the reset button of the Institute and begin the long journey that starts with the first step.

**Brother Armin LUISTRO,  
Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools**

## A Brief History of Blackfeet

The Blackfeet, according to Henry Kelsey, who visited western Canada in 1691, "was a particularly warlike tribe.... resolved to go to wars". Their fighting skills enabled them to take land from other Native American tribes until they had obtained a vast territory. The Blackfeet reached the height of their power and domination in the 1830s.

Blackfeet homelands in Montana and Canada were relatively isolated and were among the territories settled by whites in the nineteenth century. The arrival of British and American fur trappers and traders, however, was soon followed by a steady increase of white settlers into their territory. Unlike many of their neighbors, the tribe did not engage in large skirmishes or battles with the U.S. Army.

Despite the lack of pitched battles, a way of life that had served the Blackfeet so well for hundreds of years began disappearing as more and more whites moved west. Devastated by smallpox epidemics and the loss of the buffalo, the Blackfeet were eventually forced onto reservations during the late nineteenth century. There they came under the increasing control of the U.S and Canadian governments. As

more and more land was taken from them, the Blackfeet struggled to preserve their culture and traditions while trying to maintain their pride and dignity.

The Blackfeet today  
The Blackfeet today, like many other native **American tribes, are among the poorest, least healthy, and worst-educated people in North America.** Long hampered by poverty, disease, unemployment, and alcoholism, the Blackfeet are, nonetheless, fighting to correct the abuses of the past. Gradually they are returning to many of their old ways of life while creating new traditions for their children.

In 1966 over 25 000 people in Canada and the United States identified themselves as members of the Blackfeet Nation. Of these, around 8500 live on the Blackfeet reservations in Montana, while another 12000 or so live on several reserves in Canada.

### The Blackfeet Confederation

The Blackfeet today are separated into three tribes. The largest is the *Peigan* – or *Pikani* – who originally settled in Canada. Later this group was divided into the northern group

which stayed in Canada and the southern group which moved into Montana. The only difference between the two is the spelling of their name – Peigan in Canada, and Piegan in Montana.

Another group of Blackfeet who live in Canada is the Blood – or *Kainah*. The Blood owe their name to their practice of dyeing their faces and bodies with red paint. The last group is the *Siksika*, who also remained in Canada. Their name, roughly translated into English, means “Blackfeet”. Together the three tribes are called the Blackfeet Confederation or Blackfeet Nation... (to be continued)



## **JUBILEE OF THE LYCEE SAINT LOUIS DE GONZAGUE AMBOSITRA 125 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN MADAGASCAR**

On Saturday 25 November 2023, the Lycée Saint Louis De Gonzague Ambositra (Madagascar) opened the jubilee celebration of its 125th year. The opening of this celebration was marked by a great mass, presided over by the Bishop of the Diocese of Ambositra, His Excellency Bishop Fidelis RAKOTONARIVO.



By way of background, the Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools arrived in Madagascar on 24 November 1886. The Brothers soon spread to three provinces: Tananarive, Tamatave, and Fianarantsoa. Four (4) years later, the Brothers established themselves in the town of Ambositra following a proposal from R.P Bardon (Superior General of the Mission of Tananarive) to Brother Ismaël-Norbert (Visitor of Madagascar at the time). The town is in the southeast of Madagascar, 262 km from the Malagasy capital. Two Brothers were sent there on 21 April 1900, namely Brother Auguste (Director) and Brother

Joël. In 1964, the 1<sup>er</sup> cycle was opened, and three years later the Second Cycle.

We are currently celebrating the 125th anniversary of the establishment and want to “*Write a new page*”. Aware of the changes in society, we want to follow in the Institute's footsteps by writing a new page. Education, seen as the glory of the past, is in difficult when faced with the new. In other words, the old ‘*paradigm*’ of education that has been in place for years is beginning to show its limits and is even out of date. So who needs to adapt? The school or the pupils? The school needs to adapt to the new realities so that its pupils can also adapt and flourish. It is therefore time for the educational community at the Lycée Saint Louis De Gonzague to adopt a new vision that will lead to the implementation of a new paradigm to meet the new challenges facing education today.

The jubilee celebrations will continue until 18 May 2025. There are two dates to remember: the week of 15 May 2024 as the climax of the celebration, and 15 May 2025 as the closing date. Several activities are planned for 2024 and 2025: cultural activities, sporting activities (2024: Inter La Salle), and a symposium.

**Brother ANDRIAMBELOSOAMANANA  
Louis Ernest, District of Madagascar**

## **LA SALLE BADENYA: A Eucharistic celebration to launch the 2023-2024 school year!**

La Salle Badenya Private Secondary School entrusted the 2023-2024 school year to the Lord at a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Cardinal Philippe OUEDRAOGO on Saturday 21 October in Ouagadougou.

Since it was founded, La Salle Badenya Private Secondary School has always begun the school year with a thanksgiving mass. For this new school year 2023-2024, the management was keen to respect this tradition. The Eucharistic celebration was held on Saturday 21 October 2023 at the school. It was presided over by His Eminence Philippe Cardinal OUEDRAOGO. At the start of his homily, Cardinal OUEDRAOGO recalled the theme of the year: "*Let us live fraternity in humility*", which he felt was well chosen and appropriate. For him, brotherhood cannot be lived without God. "*If you put your trust in God, he will never abandon you,*" he went on to say. For the father, discipline and hard work are the keys to success.

He advised the pupils. These lessons focused mainly on the values to be cultivated, such as honesty, obedience, and the recognition of others as brothers or sisters. He wants the pupils to have well-shaped and well-filled heads, and to be attentive and receptive to the lessons given. He invites the students not to be discouraged, and to learn to fight to maintain the course of success. With the help of a choir made up of primary school pupils, the pupils marked Thanksgiving by dancing to the rhythm of the song "*Comment ne pas te louer...*" for a good 5 minutes.

The Cardinal was also keen to point out that regardless of one's religious background, everyone prays to the same merciful God. "*You cannot succeed without God*", he said.



At the end of the celebration, Brother Director Marc SOME expressed to the Father Bishop the gratitude and appreciation of all the staff at Badenya for their availability and for having agreed to celebrate this new school year Mass. The brother ended his speech with words of thanks to all those who had worked to facilitate the liturgy before introducing the staff representative, Mr. Kossi, assisted by two primary school pupils, to present a gift to the guest of the day. The celebration ended at 9.10 am.

**Mrs. Rose NANEMA, DILAO**

## **OFFICIAL OUTING OF THE ASSOCIATION DES PAPAS ÉDUCATEURS LASALLIENS (A.P.E.L.)**



Under the initiative of Brother Pie NSUKULA BAVINGIDI, Visitor of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, District of Congo Kinshasa, there was created the Association of Lasallian Daddies Educators (A.P.E.L), a structure to accompany the Lasallian Educational Mission, and whose official launch took place on Monday 15th May 2023 in the conference room of the Lasallian/Saint Georges Professional Centre.

During the ceremony, the 16-member Management Committee, led by its Chairman Mr. Jean-Bosco KAMALANDUA NKAMBANI, was presented to the Assembly and installed for a 3-year term, pending elections in 2026.



## **1<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION DES PAPAS ÉDUCATEURS LASALLIENS**

On Saturday 02 December 2023, the Association des Papas Éducateurs Lasalliens held its first general meeting in the conference room of the Centre Professionnel Lasallien Saint Georges.

On the agenda:

Analysis and adoption of the Association's Articles of Association and Internal Regulations to have them legalised at the Town Hall level, and obtain a legal personality enabling them to carry out their activities freely.

A number of sister associations were invited, including: Association des Anciens élèves des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes (ASSANEF), Association des Mamans Éducatrices Lasalliennes (A.M.E.L), Jeunesse Lasallienne (JL).

After the welcome address by the President of the A.P.E.L, Mr. Jean-Bosco KAMALANDUA, the initiator of the association, in the person of the Brother Visitor, Pie NSUKULA BAVINGIDI, gave a speech in which he reminded all the members present of the nine (9) objectives that the A.P.E.L has set itself, and of the very important role that this Association will play within the District of Congo Kinshasa.

## **CEREMONY TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRÈRE LUZOLO SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING**

On Tuesday 05 December 2023, Brother Visitor, Pie NSUKULA BAVINGIDI, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a building that will house around 20 classrooms at Collège Frère LUZOLO, a public school accredited by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, created almost 3 years ago.

The ceremony coincided with National Tree Day, which is celebrated on 05 December each year.

Three speeches crowned the event:

The first was read by the President of the students who, in his speech, thanked and congratulated Brother Visitor for the faithfulness of his promises. The second was from the Prefect, Head of School, Mr. Jean-Bosco KAMALANDUA, who described Brother LUZOLO in a few words, and the last was from the Brother Visitor, who urged the staff of Brother LUZOLO College to inherit the behaviour of Brother LUZOLO, who was a self-effacing man who loved order and discipline.

The second highlight was the laying of the foundation stone in the presence of students, teachers, and some authorities from the Ministry of Primary, Secondary, and Technical Education.

**Mr. Jean Bosco KAMALANDUA, District of Congo - Kinshasa**



## **YOUNG LASALLIANS IN NAIROBI, KENYA**

A new semester for the young Lasallians of Nairobi, Kenya, always means the anticipation of a new experience and a new adventure as a La Salle. Guided by the La Salle charism of faith, service and community, we strive to follow in the footsteps of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle. We strive to grow as educators and to welcome our colleagues to form one big family.

The young Lasallians based in Nairobi, Kenya, organise their activities and programmes according to the semesters. During the first semester of the 2023 - 2024 school year, the young people

had a list of activities, and one of them was team



building as a hike in Ngong Hills Kajiado County on 9 December 2023.

The activity took place after the important Lasallian programme of the Lasallian Days for Peace 2023. The season offered us a precious moment to reflect on "*peace within our reach*". During a sharing session on 20 October, the young people had a session to reflect and discuss what peace means for them and for the rest of the world. With the help of a facilitator, the young people were guided in understanding peace and in developing mechanisms for building peace within themselves.

On 9 December, they joined hands and climbed the hills of Ngong in teams, leaving no one behind. The experience gave them time to bond, chat, laugh and challenge each other in a spirit of love. It was also an individual journey to reflect on life, through its ups and downs.

A big thank you to our Director of De La Salle International Scholasticate in Nairobi for his unwavering support of De La Salle's youth programmes, and to our esteemed Brother animators for accompanying them every step of the way.

**Nancy Wanjiru Thuri,**

**District of St Charles LWANGA**

## **What values are we looking for in the community?**

A story: One day, a group of friends got together to visit their old university professor. After a while, the conversation turned to complaining, all about stress and work in life. The professor, noticing the grumbling, asked them if they wanted a cup of coffee. They agreed. The professor brought a large cup of coffee and a variety of mugs: china, glass, crystal and a few simple-looking ones; some expensive and some exquisite.



After they had all taken a cup of coffee in hand, the teacher said, "If you've noticed, all the nice, expensive cups have been taken, leaving behind the ordinary, cheap cups." While it's normal that you only want the best for yourself, this is the source of your problem and stress. Rest assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's simply more expensive; and in some cases, it even hides what we're drinking. What you all wanted was the coffee, not the cup. But you consciously opted for the best cups, and then you started fighting each other over the cups.

Consider this, dear Brothers, our consecration, our community life is the coffee, the mission, the position and responsibilities we occupy: Community Director, Director, Brother Visitor, Regional, Councillor, Superior General, money, and position in society are all cups. They are only tools to hold and contain life. The type of cup we have does not define or change the quality of our life as consecrated religious.

By concentrating solely on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee. By concentrating on the jobs of director, principal, bursar, provincial superior, etc., to the detriment of our calling as religious brothers, we fail to enjoy our consecration. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they get the best out of everything.

Brothers, let us live simply, love generously, speak kindly, and care deeply for one another to make the Lasallian Community peaceful and joyful in the year 2024. As we celebrate Christmas and begin the New Year, let us look inward, examine ourselves, do a deep inner cleansing, and prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts. That's the only way to enjoy inner peace, that Shalom, that wholeness with God.

**Brother OLABANJO WOLE Patrick,**

**District of St Charles LWANGA.**

## **Ecovillage curator: Sustainable Utopia**

Welcome to "Ecovillage Curator: Sustainable Utopia", where you embark on a visionary journey to build and manage the world's greenest community. As the designated leader, you hold the destiny of your eco-conscious village in your hands.

**Green infrastructure:** Start your eco-odyssey by strategically planning and developing a sustainable infrastructure. Choose eco-friendly building materials for homes, install solar panels and wind turbines for clean energy, and design a waste management system that minimises the impact on landfill sites.

**Community involvement:** Turn your residents into environmental stewards. Launch recycling programmes, encourage composting, and promote the use of public transport. Organise environmental workshops, tree-planting activities, and community clean-ups to raise environmental awareness among your residents (Smith, 2022).

**Biodiversity conservation:** Maintain a harmonious relationship between your community and nature. Create lush green spaces, parks, and nature reserves. Undertake biodiversity

conservation projects to protect endangered species and maintain a balanced ecosystem (Johnson & Anderson, 2021).

**Economic sustainability:** Strike a balance between economic growth and environmental responsibility. Support local businesses that promote sustainability and encourage environmentally friendly farming practices. The economic success of your village depends on your

ability to create a green and prosperous economy (Greenberg, 2020).

**Challenges and rewards:** Overcome environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and natural disasters. By overcoming these obstacles, you'll unlock new technologies and receive rewards that will propel your village into a more sustainable future (Williams, 2019).

**Community of happiness:** Measure the pulse of your village by evaluating the happiness and well-being of your residents. Strive to create a utopian society where a healthy environment translates into happy, satisfied citizens. Happy residents are more likely to adopt sustainable

practices and contribute to the overall success of your eco-experiment (Brown et al., 2018).

**Global impact:** As your community grows, so does its impact on the global environment. Be recognised for the steps you've taken towards sustainable development and compete with other virtual communities around the world. Become a source of inspiration for gamers around the world, demonstrating the positive influence of environmentally friendly decisions (Global Sustainability Council, 2023).

**Green pasture integration:** Explore the concept of sustainable agriculture with the "Green

Pasture" module. Work with green pasture developers to implement innovative and environmentally friendly farming practices. Integrate organic farming, permaculture and agroforestry to improve agricultural sustainability in your community (Green Pasture Developers, 2023).

Embark on this virtual journey towards sustainability, where your decisions not only influence the destiny of your eco-village, but also contribute to a better understanding of the importance of an ecological lifestyle in the real world. Are you ready to lead your community towards a sustainable utopia? The future is in your hands (Eco-village Steward Developers, 2023)!

**Robert MWAI, District of St Charles Lwanga**

**FOR YOUR TEXTS TO BE PUBLISHED:**

- **The text must not exceed 600 words**
- **The text must be dated and signed by the author**
- **Send a maximum of two well-chosen photos, maximum 500kb resolution.**
- **Respect the deadline set by the secretary.**

**GENERAL COUNCILLOR'S CALENDAR**

- **21 to 27 January:** Retreat in Palermo
- **29-31 January:** Plenary Session, Rome
- **1-15 February:** Plenary Session, continued, Rome
- **16-23 February:** Abidjan, Visit to St Miguel Scholasticate
- **26-29 February:** MEL RELEM Assembly
- **1 March:** MEL RELAM Assembly continued
- **02 March:** Rome, Assembly of the AMMSG (Association des Africains et Malgaches au service des G n relats.)
- **10 March to 11 May:** Bogota, Colombia
- **17-26 May:** (Bobo Dioulasso, BF, Novitiate visit)
- **3-9 June:** Plenary session, Rome
- **10-15 June:** Retreat, Malta
- **17-27 June:** Continued plenary session, Rome
- **7-14 July:** Extended meeting (General Council, CIAMEL, IEC, Visitors' Conferences, Heads of Commissions and Offices, Rome)

**Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**