

**February  
2018**

**Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Eastern Africa Province



*Province Communications Office Newsletter*

Email address: commoffice18@gmail.com

Tuesday/13<sup>th</sup>/February/2018

Dear Sisters,

With great joy, let us give thanks to God for the joyful Mary Ward Week – reflections and celebrations we had in our different communities and institutions. May the spirit of this remarkable woman always be upon each one of us.

Ash Wednesday is only a day away. We are getting into a season where the Lord is giving us another chance to renew our relationship with Him.



The Holy Father has also given us a package for the forthcoming Lenten season, in which He is urging us to revive our enthusiasm for the faith, using this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as an opportunity to stoke the flame of charity in our hearts.

May we heed to this invitation as we go into this time of introspection and may we consider the call to prayer and action for God's Divine intervention in our cold and needy world.



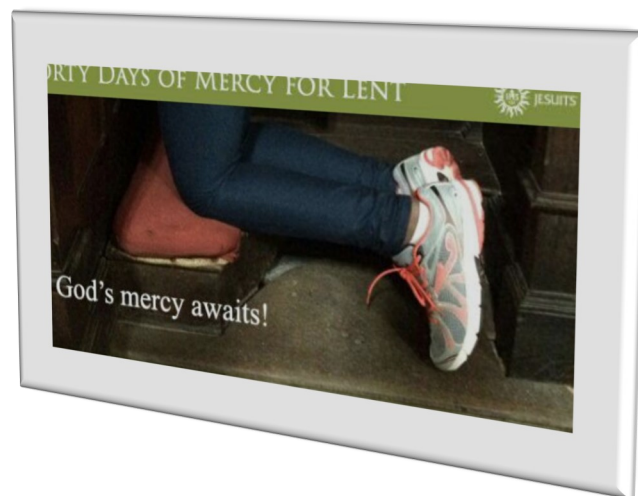
*Still on the Lenten note, next is a page of the Lenten reflection by our sister- Eunice, on behalf of the student – sisters. We thank Eunice for sharing with us a preparatory reflection for the season we are yet to begin.*

### **Lenten Reflections - 2018 (Eunice - Ibvm).**

We are usually surrounded by so much inner and outer noise that it's hard to truly hear our God calling us to join him in his plan of salvation for mankind. And so he lures us into the desert every Liturgical year through the mother church who gives us an opportunity to walk Forty days with Christ, in preparation to suffer with him in his passion and eventually rise with him to a new life. It's a time to move away from ordinary busyness to a quiet reflective time. To leave behind the baggage of unforgiveness and carry out Christ's mission of reconciliation by first reconciling with myself, my attitudes, my feelings, what I like and do not like about myself; Reconciling with others: my family and relations, my community, those that have hurt me, those that I find difficult to love in all honesty, those that do not allow me to love them, those that do not love me in return and lastly but most importantly, putting things right with God.



It's a time to come back like the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke 15:11-32 remembering that no matter how far I move away from our loving Father, he is patiently waiting to accept me back. He promises not to remember my sins of old in Heb 8:12 and Isa 43:25 and by the end of the desert days, make all things new in my life through the resurrection of our Lord.



His Holiness pope Francis encourages us to reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:26. When we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, there we become what we receive: the body of Christ. In this body there is no room for indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored; all the parts share its joy. It is this union of hearts and minds that our constitution invites us to, echoing these words to the Corinthians.

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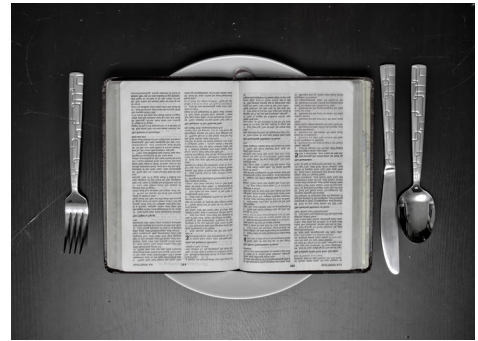
Am invited to reflect on my almsgiving: how available am I to those who need my time? Energies? a listening ear? physical, spiritual, social and emotional support?



Reflect on my prayer life; is my prayer life reflected in the way I live? What are the fruits of my prayer? Am I giving prayer precedence in my life? Do I rely on God for wisdom and direction always or at my convenience?



Reflect on my fasting: what am I invited to abstain from? What am I invited to feast on? (things to do that ordinarily I wouldn't do voluntarily that serve the good of others)?



So, as we enter the desert, Jesus invites each one of us to meet him in the sacrament of penance (and to approach the sacrament not as a torture chamber, but a place in which the Lord's mercy motivates us to do better- *Amoris laetitia*) to rid ourselves of unnecessary baggage.



Spend more time with Jesus in the Gospel this Lent. With our eyes fixed on the glory of the resurrected Christ, let us enter the desert with a clear goal that whatever we ask in Jesus name will be granted us for the greater glory of God.

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### **News from the United Nations Representative.**

Sr. Betty Whyte cordially informs us of the 2 WEBINARS likely to be of special interest, and excellent production for participation!

They are Free but one needs to register.

These are;

1. Globethics.net in collaboration with CITVN has produced a webcast series on the reading of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical *Laudato Si*, which has been described as a 'worldwide wake-up call to help humanity understand the destruction that humans are rendering to the environment and their fellow humans.

The broadcast of these sessions commenced on **January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018**.

They take place **every Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time (EST)** until July 2018.

2. Check for CJ/IBVM Loreto webinar on next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NB: For more information or clarification, please contact Betty Whyte.**

### **News from the Education Secretary's desk.**

Sr. Madeleine Sophie Achien'g is delighted to share with us the good news from the education office.

First and foremost, she acknowledges the wonderful Mary Ward celebrations whereby the children gave their best in terms of music, drama, artifacts and decorations. Indeed, the Mary Ward spirit is being cultivated among the young generation.

She congratulates all the school heads and principals, teachers, children and parents upon the good results of 2017, at different education levels.

It is wonderful to share the reality that enrolment is going up in all our schools especially Msongari, Valley Road, Mombasa and Kangemi. It is our prayer that the Lord may keep this improvement steady.

Different activities have been successfully organized in our schools for example; Valley Road had a well-organized swimming Gala, Msongari had a very interesting family day and Mombasa had a very successful Annual General Meeting (AGM).

A lot is still unfolding! We thank the Lord for all the progress.



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**A reminder from the Provincial's desk.**

Sr. Jane Frances is reminding us of the forthcoming workshop that we are all encouraged to attend, which will be facilitated by Sr. Chris Burke.

**Kindly take note of the dates below:**

Friday/ 23<sup>rd</sup>/ February - Evening      Reporting to Mary Ward Centre

Saturday/ 24<sup>th</sup>/ February - Morning      Commencement of the workshop

Sunday/ 25<sup>th</sup>/ February - Morning      The workshop will continue and end  
that afternoon.

We are all invited to avail ourselves so that we can receive the package Chris has for us.

**NB:** Chris will be free between 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> March to visit our communities.

We are kindly asked to receive her in our different communities.

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### **Birthdays in March.**

Next month, we shall be blessed with a number of birthdays to be celebrated in many of our communities, and so we rejoice with the following sisters:

<i>Anastasia Kiriongi</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> March</i>
<i>Anastasia Mbatha</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> March</i>
<i>Breid Cunningham</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Lucy Nderi</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Gertrude Mallya</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Maire O’Nolan</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Justa Fidel</i>	<i>10<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Rainer Boniface</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Rosaline Ng’ang’a</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Teresa Wanja</i>	<i>18<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Immaculate Shisanya</i>	<i>24<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Maria Macha</i>	<i>25<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Hellen Oluoch</i>	<i>30<sup>th</sup> March</i>

