



Missionaries of Africa KOLIBO NEWS LETTER



"COME AND SEE"
JOH 4:35

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GREETINGS FROM KOLIBO.



Candidacy Course is on already, this might come as a surprise to you. Well, things have changed, as from this year our Candidacy Course will be starting in January and not April as in the past years. This came up as a request from Balaka. This year we have five young men preparing themselves to go to the Seminary, these are:

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| Saviour Chanda | Luwingu |
| Alfred Nshindano | Lusaka |
| Mathews Lupiya | Lusaka |
| John Zulu | Katete |
| Leonard Katulushi | Kabwe. |



Mr. Chimponda a course on drug Addiction to candidates.

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Congratulations to them in a special way on this issue of News Letter for it has been their initiative. We wish them the best of experience .

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN DIGNITY AND COMMON GOOD

"The fact that all people are equal is basis of social justice." it means that social justice starts with equality of people. Which is respect for humanity. When the consideration of all human beings, being equal is taken care of then the possibility of baselizing social justice is high. This raises the issue of human dignity and sharing of the common good.

Human dignity is putting humanity at its high level without any course of degradation of humanity at all. Putting it at high esteem. When a person recognizes that with the person I am meeting dwells humanity which constitutes Godliness and nothing human foreign is in me or in him then social

justice would totally prevail. Justice starts from the heart of an individual, more especially when you consider humanity as humanity in its full nature, then, it goes to others when we share with the society. Henceforth, this would baselize social justice.

Examples of injustices are; Human trafficking , arrest without trail, poor payments of wages with long working hours, poor living conditions, rape cases and child defilement etc.it is a new slavery however, "the glory of God is human being fully alive, and the glory of a human is to contemplate Gods image."

By John Matthias Zul



"I am a man, and nothing is foreign to me, I a man, and injustice towards others revolts my heart.

I am a man, and oppression offends my nature... I want to restore to the sons and daughters of Africa, honour and dignity".(Lavigerie 1888).

This year marks 125 years when Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, founder of the Missionaries of Africa, with the blessing of Pope Leo XIII embarked on a world-wide anti-slavery company especially in Africa. His Missionaries are still fighting slavery in its new form of human trafficking and many other ways. The Missionaries of Africa work to bring liberation to captives and oppressed. Would you join?...



LIKE plus SHARE
IF YOU PRAY THIS WITH US TODAY

WHO ARE YOU?

Today I am inviting you to reflect upon this basic question asked "who are you?" John the Baptist faced the same question when he was asked "who are you and what have you to say about yourself?" (Jn 1:22-23). John's answer was to do with himself in relation to God. Similarly I am asking you to take this question and take it into your own heart and try to answer it.

To answer it correctly, change it into "WHO AM I?" The answer doesn't lie in giving your name, the job you do, telephone number or fax number. These answers would not touch the deep self which is YOU, I mean the unique person you are! Seriously, ask yourself, are your actions, thoughts, words, feelings and emotions you? The reality that makes you a person in the "Hidden self" in you in relation to God. For the bible teaches us that we are created in the image and likeness of God (genesis 1:27). Therefore to answer the question

"who am I?" you must journey deep into yourself and find your inmost self (Ps 139:13-14). And what is this "innermost and hidden self" that is in you which must grow says st.paul (Eph 3:16)? Just like in the mirror we just see our face and not our inner and hidden self.

Indeed when I go deep into my hidden self I find that the core and centre of my being is good and holy, created by God. The God who cares, who loves and who accepts me uniquely. This is the fundamental truth about our life, and it goes hand in hand with the saying that "a gift always represents and reminds us of the giver." It is true therefore that God, who created me, loves me, cares and dwells in me as St. John tells us of the "word that became flesh" (Jn 1:14) and dwelt among us. This word is primarily Jesus himself, who is the self-revelation of God the father. If at all this is the truth and I believe in it, then I must accept myself as a free gift of God who created me and my prayer always should be

"THANK YOU GOD FOR CREATING ME."

Apparently; with this discovery of knowing who I am, as a unique and loving person created by God, there is only one thing I can desire in my life that is to "BE WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO BE, AND NOT WHAT I WANT TO BE." To arrive at this conclusion you need to be in touch with yourself. This is what we call "self-knowledge." Self-knowledge is an important tool in vocation discernment process. It is knowing myself that can help me in discovering my vocation to which God calls me.

"THANK GOD FOR WHO YOU ARE AND LIVE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT COMPARING IT WITH THAT OF ANOTHER.."

Remember to let acceptance, love and joy be a living reality in you..

By KATULUSHI Leonard

TAKE TIME

<p>Take time to think; It is the source of power. Take time to read; It is the foundation of wisdom. Take time to play; It is the secret of staying young. Take time to be quiet; It the opportunity to seek God. Take time to be aware; it is the opportunity to help others.</p>	<p>Take time to love and be loved; It is Gods greatest gift. Take time to laugh ; It is the music of the soul. Take time to be friendly; It is the road to happiness. Take time to dream; It is what the future is made of. Take time to pray; It is the greatest power on earth. And remember to smile always, it is the inexpensive way of getting your good look back. . . .</p>
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WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is simply the communication that exists between God and us human beings, an awareness of him, a conscience being with him, being present to him and listening to him as he listens to us also. Communication and conversation are essential for a human development, human relationships and the image of which God applies to himself.

I believe with this definition of prayer, we should not pray in order for God to love us or to please the person seeing us praying but rather we should pray because we are sure of Gods love, because we want to get close to him and we want our relationship with him to be strong. Though God knows that our hearts are restless, he still hears our prayers and grants us all we need. This is evident in the scripture of Matthew 7:7-11 “*Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you.*” Jesus is emphasizing that, we should never relent when it comes to prayer. So unless we pray to God and ask for what we need, we will not receive what we need. Jesus himself was a man of prayer

even if he was the son of God, he trusted prayer, he trusted his father in heaven. This is the reason why we should also contemplate the image of Christ and pray always, there is power in prayer.

More and more, the spirit of prayer makes us capable of perceiving the fullness of Gods presence in whom we move, live and have our being. With this concept, let us not pray to make something happen, but because something incredible is happening everyday in our lives. God is seeking us to share his caring love and power. So, we need time to become fully aware and contemplate on our prayer life. For the lord is inviting each one of us to be his blessed disciple and get close to him. And this can only be achieved through prayer, because there is no way one can claim to be close to God, when one does not recognize his presence in his life, and we recognize this through prayer, so let prayer be a living reality in our daily lives.

I will end with one insight, that prayer is not a duty but, it is life itself. Prayer is being with the one who nourishes us with his love. As the modern writer on prayer, Carol Carrotto writes “ My feeling him

would have been in vain all the time, he had not thought of me.

Remember, **LET PRAYER BE A LIVING REALITY IN OUR LIVES...**



By *NSHINDANO Alfred*

CULTURAL INITIATION AS THE RICH SOURCE OF WISDOM

Ecclesiastes 1-4 “chasing the wind”, on the earth, of course in normal life of a human person, nothing is better than wisdom. Ignoring it is like chasing the wind and running after the wind is an enterprise for fools.

Lack of wisdom in people is usually due to their lack of knowledge about their culture and culture itself in general. Wisdom is a gift from God which is imparted into individuals as an act of grace, but it is also a natural quality which is acquired by experience and imparted through instructions. Sym-



bols, signs, songs, seeds, trees; products of nature are used in interpreting the clear message that life sends

to a human person.

During initiation, a person is taught especially on how to go about all the circles of life. In doing so, Mr. Mulenga who was the initiator once said, “*groundnuts are very difficult to pull from the ground since it is their nature to hold the ground firmly especially during drought, like wise, people in vocation should hold firmly to their vocation so much so that even when trails come, they will hold firmly to what they know is right.*”

During his lecture on culture and initiation at Kolibo Vocation Centre to candidacy course students, Mr. Mulenga defined culture as: “ *the essence of people to try to shape their way of life in line with wisdom using their sets of beliefs, nature as a source of tools.*” he added also that, culture differs due to different communities, societies, clans, tribe, race and nation but at all intervals, culture tries to change to have something in common, hence its dynamic characteristic.

Bemba culture especially the initiation is a very much wisdom-rich component present at the core of Bemba people’s meaning of daily life. Culture should not be avoided as that will mean no life as I doubt if there is life without culture. If culture say, initiation doesn't become the source of wisdom even in religious life, the nature will conflict. It is in Inculturation that we find true meaning of what liturgy and culture means to our Christians lives. Therefore culture initiation is very much important in the moral upbringing of a human person.

Aristotle once said, “ *obviously grace is not an accident of quantity but quality, it is a habit because it is permanent.*” of course to some of us, “wisdom” is an accident, that is why it is very much possible to have people in our lives who are accidents. People who are naïve can be found in our lives.

Looking at all these incidences, it is plausible to introduce lessons on culture to all young men/women for instance the Missionaries of Africa(the white fathers) educate and impart cultural knowledge in their kolibo students.

Mr . Mulenga once said. “ *ignoring and completely forgetting about culture, leads to no wisdom.*” there can be no logic in whatever can be done unless otherwise. Initiating young boys/girls helps much in opening people to the life of reality, the life of knowing their culture and what it entails. Culture and tradition are two inseparable entities which can be fully understood if practiced with wisdom.

After being initiated here at Kolibo Vocation Centre, I feel ,think and say to myself that, if wisdom, knowledge and God always be with me what can thwart me from doing what a fully human does. I am proud to know my culture, for that is my identity and it will help me to appreciate other people and their culture with respect.

By CHANDA Saviour