

2013 LUMKO EAST AFRICA WORKSHOP REPORT

Tabor Hill Spiritual Center, Nyahururu, Kenya

9 September to 5 October 2013

By Deacon Joseph Odongo

TIME TABLE

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

	FROM	TO	ACTIVITY
	7:15 AM	8:00AM	MORNING PRAYERS
	8:00 AM	8:30AM	BREAKFAST
	8:30AM	10:30AM	1 ST SESSION
	10:30AM	11:00AM	TEA BREAK
	11:00AM	1:00PM	2 ND SESSION
	1:00PM	2:30PM	LUNCH
	2:30PM	4:00PM	3 RD SESSION
	4:00PM	4:30PM	TEA BREAK
	4:30PM	5:30PM	GAMES
	5:30PM	6:30PM	MASS
	7:00PM	8:00PM	SUPPER
	8:00PM	9:00PM	4 TH SESSION/CULTURAL NIGHT
	9:00PM	LIGHTS OFF	

NB: One Thursday Free, One Outing to St. Martin's, One Recollection Day

SUNDAY: Pastoral Outreach from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

1. INTRODUCTION

Main aim of this workshop was to train the participants in pastoral methodologies, formation in ministries in SCCs and to create awareness in Christian leaders to meet current political, social and cultural challenges in our Christian communities. The report will analyze and clarify the activities, facts, events and outcomes of this year's course. The workshop was held at the Tabor Hill Spirituality Center, Nyahururu, Kenya from 9 September to 5th October 2013. This workshop was facilitated by our very able moderators, Sr. Ephigenia Wambui Gachiri IBVM and Mr. Joseph Waswa. Their range of experience and expertise played an important role in the four weeks of the workshop.

2. PARTICIPATION

There were 43 participants with representatives across the dioceses in the AMECEA region and Egypt. Members came from Kenya Tanzania, Uganda and two members came from Egypt. Among these were 5 priests, 6 deacons, 5 religious sisters, 2 seminarians, 25 catechists and lay missionaries. We were privileged to have Bishop Fritz Lobinger, the founder of the "Lumko Way of Being Church Program." who visited us from South Africa and was with us for the second week of the workshop.

3. HOW THE SESSIONS WERE DIVIDED

The first day opened with the "Installation of the Bible" followed by round table introductions where participants introduced themselves to the whole group. The members also set out their interests, hopes, expectations and fears regarding the whole course and its outcomes. Mr. Joseph Waswa and Sr. Ephigenia outlined the objectives for the workshop and provided a framework used for the discussion over the four weeks. There were five working days in a week, each day having four sessions except on days we had cultural evenings during which participants shared a variety of their cultural riches. Thursdays were free days reserved for personal study, homework, cleaning and shopping. We had morning prayers, mass and games on daily basis. These served to nourish the members spiritually and physically.

On Sundays we toured Christian communities, In the first week we visited an outstation in Nakuru Diocese, in the second week we visited a town parish in Nakuru Diocese and in the third week we had a chance to facilitate six programs in different outstations of Nyahururu Diocese near Tabor Hill. As a group we visited a home for physically handicapped and an orphanage as part of our experience (St. Martin Community which comprises of L'Arche and Talitha Kum Children's Home, Nyahururu).

4. MODES OF PRESENTATION

The contents of this workshop were delivered by our facilitators in class. Other than that, we had:

- i) TEXT BOOKS: available for references and personal study.
- ii) DISCUSSION GROUPS, REGIONAL GROUPS AND LITURGICAL GROUPS: these groups aided in creativity in class and liturgy, where prescribed programs were given to groups. The groups would come up with their own designed input and present them in class.

iii) RESPONSES FROM PARTICIPANTS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: gave the workshop a wider scope in dealing with some practical issues.

5. TOPICS COVERED

FIRST WEEK: 1. Group dynamics, 2. Leadership functions, 3. Gospel sharing, 5. Five stages of church growth, 6. Group response, 7. Homilies and homilists, 8 Look, listen and love, 9. Life *Bible*.

SECOND WEEK: Awareness programs, which included 1. Liturgy of the word, 2.Skill training, 3.Amos Programs, 4. Social analysis and 5. Decision making.

THIRD WEEK: Small Christian Communities, 1. Teamwork versus dingle person work, 2. Serving the neighborhood, 3. Spiritual formation, 4. Individual's spiritual growth, 5.Growth of groups, 6.Where to train leaders, 7. How to train leaders, 8.Inculturation, 9. Four areas of training.

FOURTH WEEK: 1. Responsibilities and formation of Small Christian Communities, 2. Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), 3. Journey Catechesis, 4. Twin picture catechism, 5. Liturgical rites, 6. Conflict, confrontation and 7. Parish Pastoral Council.

6. EVALUATION

Generally the 2013 Lumko East Africa Workshop was successful. It was well programmed and efficiently facilitated. The whole course involved empowering leaders in initiating, forming, building and sustenance of Small Christian Communities. Moreover it delved into training in various ministries in Christian communities, i.e. ministry to the sick and the dead (funerals), to the poor, preparation for marriage, preaching, reading, conflict resolution and leadership. In other words it trained participants in skills of dealing with a wide range of pastoral concerns. The emphasis was on the importance of having vision to do something, planning on doing it and to act on it. Practice is a pillar to developing and growing in skills and to become efficient in these ministries.

It is worth mentioning then that this course was informative, formative, transformative, thus it was timely and practical in its approach. It inspired in the participants the zeal to be more spiritually and pastorally oriented. The course tackled scriptural sharing and spiritual growth in its entirety.

7. CONCLUSION

The course was ultimately relevant today when the Catholic Church proposes a Year of Faith and a New Evangelization because there is more need of it, even more than there was 50 years ago! Other than shared faith, the course categorically stressed living the faith we profess. Living faith opens the heart to the grace of God which frees us from pessimism. Today, more than ever, evangelizing means witnessing to the new life, transformed by God, and thus showing the path to others. The course inspires the hearts to bring God to our current life, especially today where we see what a life without God looks like.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) It was a general feeling by the participants that time was not sufficient for the material covered, more time need to be added. Some recommended it to be 6-8 weeks.
- ii) Due to the developments in technology, the members proposed that the LUMKO material be digitized and the materials put online for a wider audience to access the material online. In that regard all material should be presented using PowerPoint.
- iii) It was the concern of the whole group that more facilitators should be trained to assist the current ones. This is if this course is to reach many people in the AMECEA Region.
- iv) Members agreed that there should be a Lumko East Africa magazine or newsletter.

9. PICTORIALS





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1. Joseph Waswa presenting a Lumko Program
2. Sr. Ephigenia in one of our Outreach Visits
3. Priests, Deacons and Seminarians who attended the course
4. Bishop Flitz Lobinga proceeding to mass
5. Participants entertaining Christians
6. Participants
7. Joseph Waswa having a light moment with a youth in a parish.
8. Christians in one of the parishes during a presentation of Lumko Program
9. Ugandans presenting their cultural songs
10. Ugandan participants
11. Participants of Nakuru Diocese, Kenya
12. Two seminarians from Egypt Fedi and Sema with a priest
13. Bishop Fritz Lobinger in one of our evenings together
14. Participants on a tour.
15. Maasai.