

TANGAZA UPDATES

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2016

This Year's School of Theology took place on 8th and 9th of February 2016 and the theme was **“Ad Gentes 50 Years and Beyond”**.

The Symposium commenced with the welcoming remarks from the Principal, Fr. Steven Payne, OCD in which he welcomed all the people present reminding them that mission is not only reserved for the Missionary Congregations, but that by the virtue of our baptism, we all are called to be missionaries whatever form or vocation it takes. In his address, Fr Payne underlined especially the fact that despite the plethora of religions present in the world, we are brothers and sisters with a common origin and destiny.

The Dean of the School of Theology, Rev Prof Patrick Mwanja, CSSp followed with his thematic introduction. In his speech, the Dean recalled Pope Francis invitation to the whole Church to celebrate 50 years anniversary of the decree *Ad Gentes*. It was in this context the School of Theology chose the theme of *Ad Gentes* as the theme of this year's theological symposium. He expounded how *Ad Gentes* has been a very key document in this epoch coming out of an Ecumenical Council that has been described as a watershed. He explained that the symposium is therefore an invitation to us to reflect on the impact of *Ad Gentes* today after 50 years and its relevance for the Church in the future.

The first key note address of the Symposium was “*Evolution and Revolution of Ad Gentes*” and was given by Rev. Dr. Joseph Ngulu, a Ugandan nationality and a diocesan priest from the Catholic diocese of Jinja. He is a lecturer of Church History in CUEA and Tangaza University College. In his powerful presentation, Dr Ngulu explained in details the way how the decree *Ad Gentes* came about and the processes it went through until its final version.

The second keynote address was given by Prof Clement Majawa who is a diocesan priest from the Catholic Archdiocese of Blantyre, Malawa and a lecturer and the Dean of Postgraduate Studies at CUEA on the topic “*50 Years of Ad Gentes in Africa, Towards a Deeper Evolution.*” In his presentation, Prof Majawa gave a deep theological perspective of *Ad Gentes* stressing the point that mission begins from God himself; it is indeed a divine enterprise.

The final speaker of the symposium was Prof .Philomena Njeri Mwaura who is an Associate Professor in the Philosophy and Religious studies Department and Director, Centre for Gender Equity and Empowerment at Kenyatta University, Nairobi. The topic of her presentation was *The going of the Fourth Church: A Pastoral Missionary Oriented Church*. She gave a very rich exposition of the missionary nature of the Church and the way how the Church can be faithful to her mission in the future.

After all the main presentations, people went for break up groups for discussions. The questions for discussions were taken from the book *Ad Gentes* published by the Paulines (2015) with pastoral and theological reflections by Patrick Mwanja. The discussions were facilitated by some faculty members of the School of Theology. All the main presentations of the symposium plus the main points from the discussion groups will be published in the 2016 issue of Tangaza Journal of Theology and Mission.

Patrick Mwanja, CSSp

Dean – School of Theology