



Friday, March 22, 2024



TUC International Theological Symposium this Year

Africa, once deemed the continent of darkness is now a lighthouse, a shining light, spreading the Good News. Once the destination of missionaries, the region is now the beacon of hope to the rest of the world in the evangelization mission of the Church. This includes Western nations who earlier sent missionaries to evangelize Africa.



The Church, following in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the centuries diligently carries out her mission; as a witness to the Good News to the whole world. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, she has fostered this spread of the faith.

To respond to this shift in mission and evangelization, Tangaza University College (TUC) organized this year's Annual International Theological Symposium. The conference themed: *Make Disciples of all Nations: The Missionary Mandate of Christ (cf. Mt. 28:19-20) in the Religious, Cultural and Social context of Africa Today* was put together by the Dogmatic Department in the School of Theology in the University College.

Internationally renowned guest speakers graced the two-day forum. Along with the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and Sudan, His Excellency Hubertus Van Megen, was His Eminence Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect Emeritus of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (DDWDS), who was the keynote speaker on both days. Also present were Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, the Archbishop of Nairobi, Most Rev. Maurice Makumba, the Archbishop of Kisumu, and Most Rev. Zaccheus Okoth, Emeritus Archbishop of Kisumu.



The other eminent presenters were Rev. Prof. Majawa, the former Dean and Current Head of Department of Dogmatic Theology of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), and Dr. Mary Mukami Njoroge, the Academic Director of Common Courses of Strathmore University, among other prominent personalities.

The symposium attracted a huge attendance through both physical and online participation. This year's participation exceeded expectation with over 1,000 joining physically while more than 600 were online via TUC's social media platforms.



The colorful event was led by the TUC Vice Chancellor Designate, Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp, who introduced the visitors to the Tangaza University College, and recognized the guests. He linked the Symposium theme's relevance to TUC's Mission and Vision, of Formation of Missionaries for the Evangelization of the World.

The presentations, were geared towards encouraging greater commitment by the laity, religious and future priests to the Missionary Mandate of Christ. They were also expected to give better clarity and understanding of the challenges in the Evangelization of youth, family and the fast-secularizing societies of Africa.

The keynote presenter; His Eminence Cardinal Robert Sarah broached the topic of *"Make Disciples of all Nations: The Missionary Mandate of Christ in the Religious, Cultural and Social context of Africa Today"*, while Archbishops Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, and Most Rev. Maurice Muhatia presented their expertise on the *"Experience of Evangelization in the AMECEA Region in the Last Forty Years"*.

On their part, Archbishop Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth, and Seminarian Felix Nimanya of the Montfort Missionaries delivered their presentation on *"The Bible in Evangelization Today; Reconstructing the Contemporary Hopes and Despairs with Thomistic Hermeneutical Thoughts"*.



His Eminence Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect Emeritus of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (DDWDS)

Other presentations looked at Evangelization in a wide range of contexts, cutting across the spectrum; from witchcraft, Liturgy, Vatican II teachings, the vitality of the Christian family, young people and New Media, the contribution of Consecrated Women and, the Blessed Virgin Mary in Evangelization as a hope for the future.

The Vice Chancellor Designate, Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp thanked the symposium organizers led by Rev. Prof. George Kocholickal. He officially concluded the International Theological Symposium and dismissed the assembly.

The Launch of the TUC Dogmatic Club

The School of Theology is home to the newest club in Tangaza.

The TUC Dogmatic Club was launched by His Eminence Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect Emeritus of (DDWDS), and the TUC Vice Chancellor Designate Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp.



In a special celebration, the launch ushers in not only a club that coordinated this year's TUC International Symposium, but a much vital membership in the school.

The Cardinal and the Vice Chancellor Designate led the solemn yet colorful rite that included a procession with a candle and Bible, and the club members.

The celebration of Solemn Vespers was led by the Cardinal assisted by the Carmelite and Dominican Communities. The launch culminated in the cutting of the ribbon and blessings.



Service Learning Fora and the Climate Justice Series

The Service Learning Hub Africa is hosting a series of monthly fora centered around current environmental themes.

The online forum, which is convened at the Uniservitate Africa Regional Hub, domiciled at Tangaza University College (TUC), is a follow-up to the launch of the Uniservitate Africa Climate Justice Movement held late last year, and seeks to respond to today's social needs.

The first forum focused on "*Service Learning as a Conscientization Tool for Climate Justice in Africa.*" The conference, attended by over 45 participants from the hub, and the institutions supported by Uniservitate, aimed to delve into the role of Service Learning in addressing climate justice issues that affect society today.

The second forum, delved into the theme "Towards a Transformative Eco-Spirituality". Led by Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, the Vice Chancellor Designate, Tangaza University College, the conference aimed to foster discussions and awareness regarding ecological issues intertwined with Spiritual Perspectives.



The Vice Chancellor delivered a thought-provoking presentation, highlighting "Five Attitudes Underlying Ecological Crisis Today. They are; " *Anthropocentrism*, a concept that the world exists primarily to serve human needs and their desires. Another is *Power as Domination*, which is central to the ecological crisis in the misuse of power, especially evident in Modern Science.

Other attitudes, he said, include the *Denial of Interconnectedness*, which disregards the interconnectedness and interdependence of all forms of life, and *Assumption of Limitless Resources*, where modern society often assumes that natural resources are unlimited and perpetually renewable, leading to unsustainable practices and overexploitation.

The last one, the Professor pointed out, is *Unchecked Consumerism*, which is the relentless pursuit of consumption and possession. This includes the commodification of persons and relationships, which worsens the ecological crisis and widens global inequalities.

One presenter, Dr. Reginald Nalugala who focused on the role of Service Learning in action research and the application of Freirean methodology. He noted that service-learning allows faculty to connect their theoretical knowledge with practical application, that is tailored for Catholic Higher Education Institutions.

Another presenter, Dr. Caroline Buya explored the connection between Catholic Social Teachings and the care for creation within the "Ethics of Care." She explained that Service learning emphasizes the role of students as active citizens who can contribute to positive social change.



Tree planting at Lokwarkwar Pri. Sch West Pokot, an extension of the Climate Justice Movement at the Africa Hub

Tangaza Condoles with Kenyatta University Fraternity

The Tangaza University College Family stands in solidarity with Kenyatta University Fraternity during this solemn period, following the loss of their students in the accident at Voi.

Led by the Dean of Students, Fr Anthony Amissah SVD and the Tangaza University Students Association (TUSA), the college on Thursday 22nd held prayers and a candle lighting ceremony for the souls of their fellow departed comrades that they may rest in peace.



The TUSA President, Mr. Levy Obama explained that the occasion was also to pray for the different families, relatives and friends of the students, who are currently going through a difficult moment, that God may strengthen them.



Obama noted that it was with great emotion and sadness that through social media, the news of the accident of fellow students and comrades was reported. He said that the loss of the Kenyatta University students reminds us that our lives are a gift from God. We should cherish it and live every moment as people who know that our lives do not belong to us.



May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them, and May Their Souls Rest in Eternal Peace. Amen.