Opening of St Camillus Seminary, Kimaka, Jinja Uganda

During the month of July 2015 Fr Stephen (Provincial) visited the confreres in Uganda.

This was an important occasion as we also celebrated the Professions of three of our young religious as well as the official opening of the new Camilian Seminary.

Above: final preparations before the official opening
The Seminary was opened on the Feast of St Camillus 14 July 2015 and we were also privileged to witness the First Profession of Brother Matia Alikiriza as well as the renewal of professions of Brothers Achileo and Joseph.

It was an eventful 11 days. The Camillians were all busy with last minute jobs in order to have the Seminary ready on time.
Above. The sign indicates our Health Centre and the Seminary in Kimaka.

A great deal of work has gone into the project over the last year to 18 months and we are grateful to all concerned. There was great deal of planning which was approved by the Provincial Council and work began last year in 2014.
After the Mass of St Camillus we all ate lunch inside the Seminary dining room. We catered for many guests and it was truly a joyful occasion. The name of St Camillus and his message is spreading through this ‘Pearl of Africa’.

We now have 21 students in training. 16 of them will be in Kimaka at our seminary. 8 will study philosophy while the other 8 are in Orientation. Two of our students are in novitiate in Kenya while the other three are all studying theology in Tanzania.

We welcome also Fr Augustine. He is a diocesan priest from India. Well known to the Camillians for years, he has sought to experience missionary life in the Camillian Order in Uganda for a two-year period and we pray it will be mutually enriching all round.
Above Fr Stephen Stands outside the Seminary, Friday 17 July, 2015
Dr Lilias Lamont in traditional dress for the Feast of St Camillus

Dr Lilias Lamont made her second visit to Uganda to work in our St Camillus Health Centre. She volunteered her time and paid her own airfare, which was very kind. Dr Lamont is a Paediatrician and many women came to the Health Centre with their children in order to be assessed by the Doctor. We also had adults who came to be checked out by the doctor. Some patients travelled long distances and one women travelled over 40 miles to see the Doctor.

We were delighted to welcome back Dr Lilias Lamont who once again kindly volunteered her medical skills in the field of Paediatrics. Many women came to the Health Centre to have their children and themselves assessed by Dr Lamont’s expertise. Thankfully there were no major problems requiring referral to hospital. Dr Lilias has promised to return and we appreciate her kindness as do the many locals who swarmed over our campus when they heard of our expert present.
above, the plaque outside the front entrance

left to right, Frs Jofree, Biju, Johnson, Augustine, Dr Lilias Lamont, Frs Stephen & Richard.
REPORT FROM FR RICHARD LUBAALE

Dear Fr provincial warm greetings from Uganda.
Thank you very much for the support that you have accorded to us during the opening of the building, the feast day of St. Camillus and the profession of brother Matia.

VOCATIONS
As I wrote to you, I have been on the week of vocations promotion, visiting the homes of the candidates to the orientation class. Out of the expected eight, five reported for the retreat, which is currently going on in Masaka. One of the students happens to be still with his university studies which are to be finished in December, and two of them chose to join the university instead of joining us.

ELECTRICITY:
On the issue of electricity, there has been a delay in getting a clearance from the military, which we are almost finalizing, and also the manager of the power in Jinja has insisted on the three phase which is technically recommended, than the single phase. But I am very optimistic that all the current hurdles will be solved soon and we shall have power before the end of this month.

ST. CAMILLUS HEALTH CENTRE
On the clinic we once again thank you for the gift of Dr. Lilias and the constant support that she has accorded to us. Her coming has brought in a great number of positive changes that are starting to be noticed in the quality of the services that we offer, and the positive comments that we are receiving from both the community around and the medical personnel in Jinja. We mainly appreciate her record keeping, and the clarification of patients according to urgency need of care. The staff also has improved on their level of professionalism and I believe that with this kind of exposure and interaction, we may, one time become a model of reference for many health service providers.

COLLABORATION:
In order not to duplicate services, we have decided to collaborate with Ministry of health, Nyenga mobile clinic, and the Military medical team, as far as HIV/AIDS patients and immunization programs are concerned. In the course of our services we have found some of them to be HIV positive. We have decided to refer these patients to Nyenga mobile clinic, and in return they have accepted to share with us the testing kits, which mean that we will have to stop spending money on the testing kits. The ministry as I had already shared with you, is very happy with the work that we are doing in our outreach program in which patients especially mothers who cannot travel long distances have now access to immunization services within their areas. In return the ministry has decided to avail us with all immunization vaccines. This morning I also met with the commander in chief of the military college who are our neighbor, mainly to discuss on the issue of electricity, in which he asked us to work with the manager in charge of power in Jinja. I also took the opportunity to ask for how best we can work together, since their medical team is always referring patients to our health centre, and though we did not reach to something conclusive, he asked his medical team in our presence to see how best we can work together. Out of this collaboration I expect them to share with us the free drugs they receive from the government especially in the fight against malaria.

BENEFITS:
The major benefits from all these collaboration is mainly to help us; not to spend on drugs which these institutions have in pretty, to help our patients access some of the free state treatments which they cannot access either due to fear of the military check points or lack of information.

CONCLUSION
Sorry for the long email, but I always take long to share with you through this forum, yet it is the only way I can keep you updated for the working going on here on the ground. I once again thank you for the great work that you are doing in us, and for the new arrangements, I believe there is a hand of Holy Spirit in whatever the council decided.

God bless you

Richard MI