

Well, October is almost over and I did miss a few things that are important. On a lighter side, I missed “Canadian” Thanksgiving, or as it called in Canada, “Thanksgiving.” I do not usually get to celebrate this day since I live in the United States, where on the same day, Americans celebrate “Columbus Day.” But, still, the day brings back memories of an earlier harvest in Canada, shorter days, and cooler nights on the edge of winter. I was able to keep in the “spirit of things” with photos from my brother, Brian and my sister-in-law, Lynn. For those outside of Canada, I have enclosed a photo of an old Canadian tradition, called “kill the turkey.” This practice arose—apparently—when in earlier days a turkey somehow came back to life after cooking in an oven for 5 or 6 hours. Hence, we make sure, even after a thorough cooking, that the turkey is really dead.



On a much more serious note, I missed the funeral of a very dear friend, George Gelles, who died on October 10. I remember the first time that I met George. It was in the “old” bookstore and one of his classmates, John Cleary, Jr. was with his son, John, who was starting his first year at the Mount. John said,



“I want to introduce you to a dear friend and classmate!” And it was George. He was the epitome of hospitality to me at the Mount, especially in my early days. My greatest memory of George was how he would stand at the back of the chapel at any of the big celebrations. As I would be singing in the recession, he would lean over to me and say, “Father, with singing like that, don’t ever give up your day job.”

Once I pulled up and started pumping gas at the Sheetz gas station near Routes 15 & 30. I noticed that George was pumping gas on the other side of the island, but he had not seen me. So, I started singing “Some Enchanted Evening.” Then I heard in the famous George voice, “Father if this gas wasn’t so expensive, I would pay for your singing lessons. God knows that you need them.” Then we both laughed hysterically! George was a “mainstay” at the Mount for years and he was a selfless leader in many charitable causes. George lived the words of Mother Teresa, whom he admired greatly: “Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” I know that many will miss him, as will his wife Terri, and his children Gregory, Christine and Amy. May all the angels and saints welcome George into the unconditional and gentle embrace of God’s love!

This week Br. Mosses is in the midst of his final exams for the semester. On November 20 he will begin his last semester at Alfagems Secondary School in Morogoro, as he completes Form Four. The other seminarians, Phillip (4th Theology), Yohana (3rd Theology), Vitalis (2nd Philosophy), and Joseph (1st Philosophy) will begin their new school year at Jordan Catholic University on November 4.



Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. standing in the main walkway/entrance to Jordan Catholic University.

I was able to secure some information about history of this institution from their website. The religious Superiors of the congregations working in Tanzania agreed early on with the Salvatorian Mission Superior, Fr. Andrew Urbanski, SDS, that there was need for an Institution of Higher Education for their Religious members—especially for those who felt a calling to the presbyterial ministry. It was decided that the Seminary's patron would be the Founder of the Salvatorians, Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan. On September 2, 1990, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, blessed the cornerstone of this Seminary at his meeting with the clergy and religious, during his pastoral visit in St. Peter's Church, Dar es Salaam.

The new Mission Superior of the Salvatorians in Tanzania, Fr. Zdzislaw Tracz, SDS, became responsible for implementing the plan. Progress on the building of the Seminary advanced to a point where, by mid-1993, facilities became available for the opening of classes on August 16, for the first of the three-year philosophy program. The initial staff of six lecturers consisted of members from the Holy Ghost Missionaries, the Consolata Fathers, the Salvatorians, and one lay professor, who came midway into the second year and is a Companion of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. These instructors hailed from Tanzania, Mozambique, Holland, Poland and the United States of America. The original twenty-five students represented five religious orders.



In the second year, another twenty-one students came to start their studies in philosophy. Future projections indicated that each year there would be about twenty to twenty-five newcomers for the three-year philosophy program. By 1995, the student enrolment had increased to eighty, representing nine religious congregations. The Salvatorian Major Seminary also accepted members of Religious Orders beginning their first year of Theology. In the same year the

Salvatorian Major Seminary had received official affiliation with the Philosophy Faculty of the Pontifical Urbaniana University of Rome.



By 1998, the number of students had increased to one hundred and seventy, representing fifteen religious congregations. The academic staff had grown to twenty-four members, from twelve Religious Congregations, and three lay teachers. On April 16, 2010 the General Council of the Society of the Divine Saviour resolved to transform the Salvatorian Institute into a constituent college of St. Augustine University of Tanzania with the name of Jordan University College. On November 2, 2010 the College received from The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) the Certificate of Provisional Registration.



The classes are very large. Joseph, who is beginning his first year of Philosophy has over 80 seminarians in his class. I do not think that they have the resources to do anything otherwise, but this means that one teacher has over 80 students at a time in class. Similarly, Vitalis has over 60 students in his second year of Philosophy. In theology, Yohana has over 50 classmates in each class and Phillip also has over 50 classmates in each class. The theology curriculum looks very much like the studies that a seminarian would undertake at Mount St. Mary's University.

Jordan Catholic University has a beautiful, large chapel, with original paintings on the back wall of the sanctuary. To the left is a depiction of the covenant with Abraham. Next to this is the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to



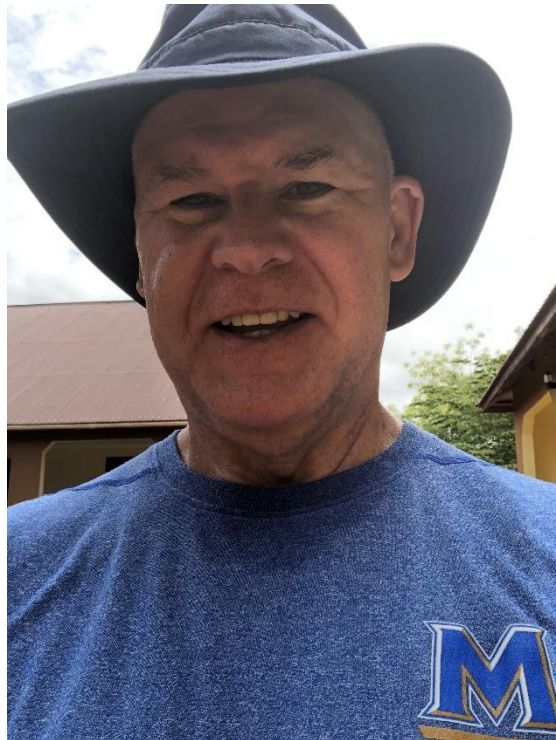
Mary. The center piece is the Resurrection, and to the far left is a depiction of the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost. Below are some close-ups of these scenes.







The beautiful campus of Jordan Catholic University.



Fr. Jim is trying—as Mount President Timothy Trainor urges us—to export the Mount's goodness!

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