



Well, with the warm weather here in Morogoro—in the low 30’s C and in the low/mid 90’s F—it was difficult to think that Christmas was approaching. Br. Mosses left on December 16 to begin a short internship with Fr. Daniel in our



Parish, Our Lady of the Precious Blood of Jesus, in Butiama over the Christmas break before his school resumes in early January. I told our theology students (Phillip and Yohana) and our philosophy students (Vitalis and Joseph) that they could spend Christmas with their families and make some connections with their local parish while at home. They were VERY busy at school with mid-terms and papers before the last student left on December 22. Peter alone remained with me because he only had a 3 day break at his school. It turns out, however, that he ended up having a longer break because the schedule changed at the last minute. But, by then, it was a bit too late to make new plans. We also thought that it would best for him to stay and spend some time on his school work, as this is a very important time in his academic program.

Since the guys were so busy in the week before their departure, Peter and I volunteered to take care of the Christmas decorating. I took care of the tree in the dining room and Peter looked after the decorations in the chapel. These included a tree and a crèche scene, complete with miniature rocks and trees... oh, and balloons! We later made a few modifications, adding more rocks and trees.







As I mentioned, Br. Mosses needed to leave earlier, but the rest of us decided that we would have our Christmas “time” together on December 19. I found a place where I could get gift boxes and I bought some treats and practical things for each person and placed them under the tree as a surprise. You might notice a stack of cards at the front, under the tree. These were cards that members of the Ontario-Kentucky Province sent to each man (and to each novice) for



Christmas. Each envelope had notes and signatures, photos and some Resurrectionist items, such as pins for the Apostles of the Resurrection. It is an understatement to say that the men were surprised and absolutely delighted!









*Everyone looked very excited before opening the gift boxes!*







*Joseph, Peter, Phillip, and Vitalis pose with their presents by the a-little-bit-crooked tree.*





*I am not quite sure how this happened...but Yohana looks happy enough!*



We also had a Christmas cake—with unique spelling—and ice cream for dessert.



As a Christmas message to all my family and friends, I would like to refer to a poem by Jan Richardson, “How the Light Comes: A Blessing for Christmas Day.”

*I cannot tell you how the light comes.*

*What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining.*

*That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.*

*That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost, what is forgotten, or in peril, or in pain.*

*That it has a fondness for the body for finding its way toward flesh, for tracing the edges of form, for shining forth through the eye, the hand, the heart.*

*I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does. That it will. That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you, though it may seem long ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not foresee.*

*And so may we this day turn ourselves toward it. May we lift up our faces to let it find us. May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes. May we open and open more and open still to the blessed light that comes.*



Visit *CR's in Action* <https://resurrectionists.ca/>