

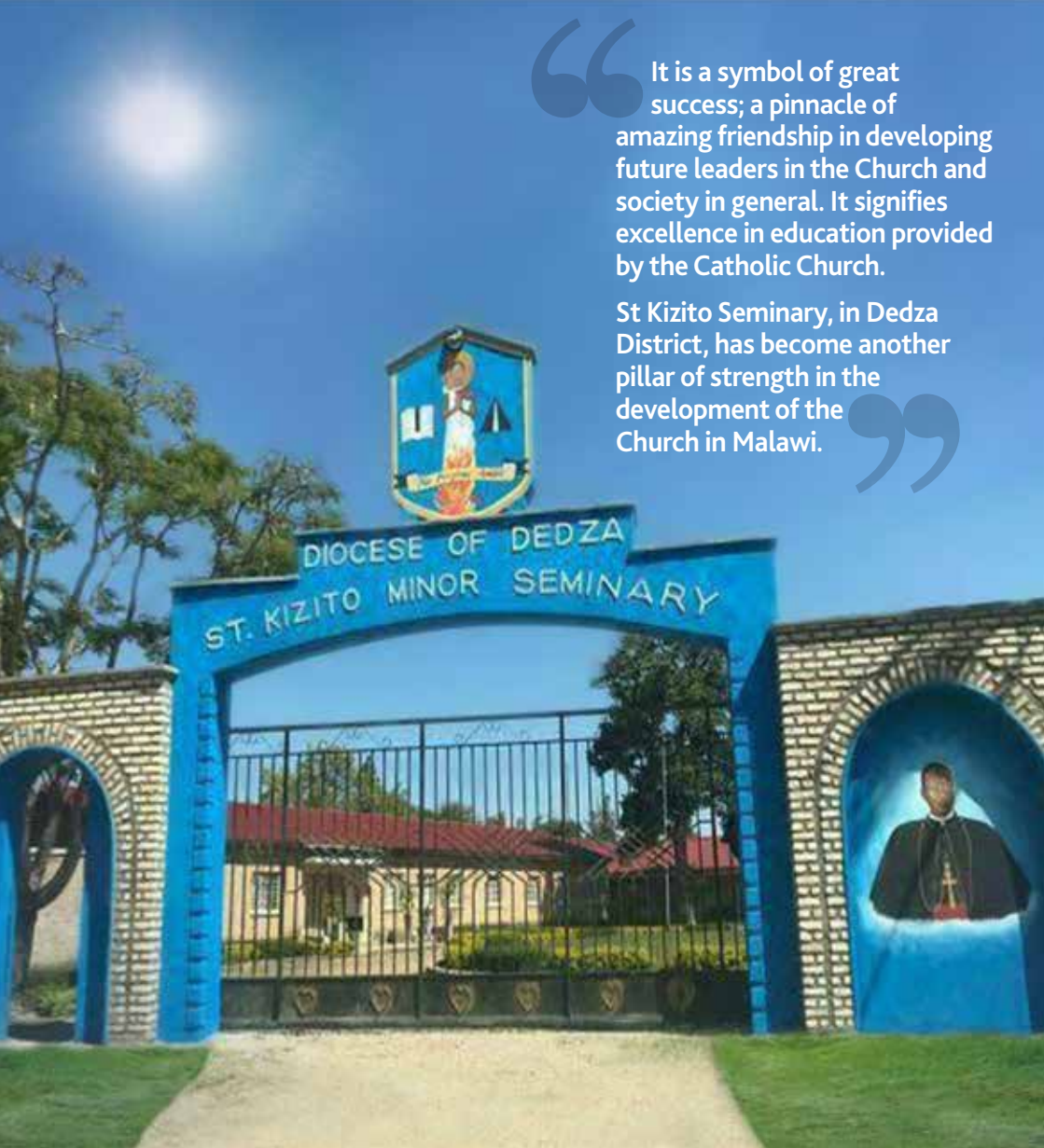
# Troubadour

Volume 65, No.2

Winter 2022

“ It is a symbol of great success; a pinnacle of amazing friendship in developing future leaders in the Church and society in general. It signifies excellence in education provided by the Catholic Church.

St Kizito Seminary, in Dedza District, has become another pillar of strength in the development of the Church in Malawi. ”





In the 12th century Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi from this cross:

*“Francis, go and rebuild my Church which you see is falling down.”*

Don't complain about the Church in the 21st century.

Hear Our Lord's call and do something about it!

*The Friars Minor have followed St Francis' example for the last 800 years.*

**Why not be one of them?**

Contact Br Donal Walsh OFM,  
Franciscan Friary, 270 Ballater Street, Glasgow. G5 0YT  
Email: vocations@friar.org

# Troubadour

A MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

*at the service of*

- The Franciscan Missionaries working throughout the world but especially in disaster areas.
- The Franciscan Missionary Union.



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#### COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

*Front cover:*

Entrance to St Kizito Minor Seminary,  
Malawi.

*Back cover:*

'Through the eyes of a child'.

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# Memories of India



Three nieces of the late **Fr Egbert ofm** were delighted to read about the Bishop's House renovations reported in previous issues of the *Troubadour* and set out browsing through some of their parent's belongings and came across a veritable treasure of old photos and memorabilia which they had received from Fr Egbert over the years.

Some of these pictures show the tremendous commitment of the English Franciscan Province in sending so many dedicated Missionaries to India. They helped to build the Church in that part of India and the growth of the Franciscan Order was a great testimony to their hard work. Many of the Friars died in India while others went on to the South African Mission when Indian Government regulations forbade their return to India. Others came back to the UK and lived out the rest of their lives ministering to the people of the UK.

We have a tremendous heritage in the great work these old Missionaries did in India and the people in India do have very fond memories of them. Perhaps, you may remember some of them and be able to give names to them from the old photos shown in this article.

*Left:*

*Fr Egbert with some of his parishioners.*





If anyone can identify the missionaries in any of these pictures then I would love to hear from you. Each and every one has a story which might be told, especially if you are related to any of these great Franciscan Missionaries to India.



# Fr Barnabas Mann ofm

by Fr. Edmund Highton ofm

I recently had an email from a former Parishioner of Fr Barnabas and thought you might like to hear of another of our old Missionaries and their influence on people.



*The Catechism Lesson by Jules-Alexis Meunier.*

Dear Fr Edmund,

Thank you for your kind response.

I was a young teenager when Fr Barnabas taught me the catechism, and many other aspects of our faith. He was a good man, perhaps a little severe, but now, at 63 years old, I recall him not only with affection for all that he gave to me in the spiritual sense, but with a kind of reverence.

As a boy - not then Catholic - I always used to enter and sit in the church for a while on my way home from school. This must have gone on for some time. I was drawn by the peaceful atmosphere of the interior, and by the Risen Christ above the altar, as well as by that sense of peace and holiness that one obtains in churches that have good priests. One day, while I was sitting thus, Fr Barnabas came in from the vestry, noticed me there, and asked if there was anything I wanted. I replied, 'Yes. I want to be a Catholic'. He then wanted to know why, and I replied that I sensed something holy in that church. 'Oh yes,' he said, 'there is something holy in here', and

he took me up behind the altar and explained to me the presence of Christ in the host kept in the tabernacle, and so on. He then said, 'Go home and think it over for three weeks and if, after that time, you still want to be a Catholic, come back and speak to me again'. I waited it out, and returned, and then went through the catechism etc., and it was he who baptised me, and gave me my first confession and communion. He was, that is, my spiritual father, and I remember him now as such. Now that I am older.

I would be glad and grateful to know more about his life, and to have, if possible, a photograph of him. I have thought a lot about him in the last few years of my life - but so much about him remains vague.

Thanks again for writing to me.

With all good wishes,  
Donovan.

If any of our readers has a picture of Fr Barnabas ofm we would be happy to make a copy and forward it on to Donovan!

# Never let us be parted from You

by Fr Matthews Chimtendere,  
St. Kizito Minor Seminary, Dedza Diocese, Malawi.

Any journey travelled has a well-defined point of origin and destination. The journey of priestly formation; long it may take, but it has a point of destination grounded in the discipleship and configuration of Christ called to priesthood.

Reflecting back on my seminary life the puzzle has always been to make a coherent picture on how this journey was travelled and how the nine years of formation were covered, and yet every time I engage myself in this reflection, I seem to arrive at the same important aspect that gives shape and structure to the identity of every priest: The realisation that God controls and guides the entire journey of this formation process transforming an individual to be capable of being a 'gift of self to the Church.'

From the onset, priestly formation ought to be conceived as a journey initiated by God himself. In fact, the vocation to the priesthood is a gift that God gives to the Church and to the world, a path to sanctify oneself and others that should not be followed in an individualistic manner, but must always have as its point of reference a specific portion of the People of God. God calls and His choices, most often, invite questions in the spectrum of human standards. God's choice

of David to be anointed King by Prophet Samuel surprised the entire household of Jesse and the elders in Israel. The little boy David was not in any way thought to be fit to be a crowned king of the great nation of the chosen people, Israel. But the constancy of the history of human salvation continues to reveal the nature of God that when He calls; He pays no attention to aspects that appear critical to human criteria: appearances, height or stature. God's eyes go beyond what the human eye sees. God looks in the heart and not on the outward manifestations bleached with deception (1 Sam. 16:7). The weak and the despised are called so that God's mighty power may prevail. God indeed calls the weak and strengthens them. The journey to priesthood is initiated by God and by His graces accomplishes it according to His design.

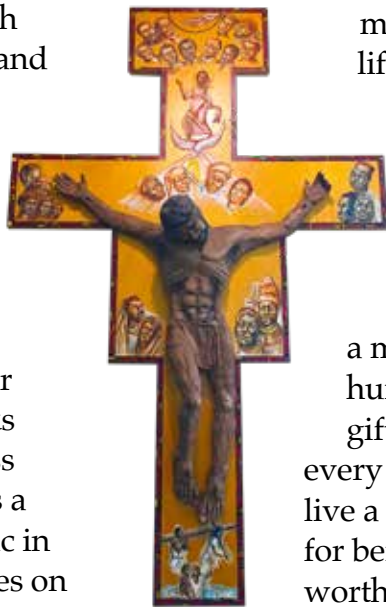
We come to glimpse with reality that the formation voyage is overstretched to allow formation take its course by powerful working of the Holy Spirit. The fundamental





idea is to become disciples 'in love' with the Master, shepherd 'with the smell of the sheep', who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them. The formation period is a trying moment on the other hand which requires robust fortitude and resilience in the Lord. And prayer is always an effective tool that fills the seminarian with unwavering hope and infinite communion with Jesus Christ. Being a seminarian you suffer scorn from peers. Religious life in our modern times looks old fashioned and less appealing. There is a shared human logic in our days that hinges on human freedom and rights of viewing priesthood as wastage of time and life dictated by one's ecclesiastical authority (formators, Provincial Superiors, Bishops, etc...) which calls for submissiveness.

Truly, priesthood lacks sense



if one reduces it to a single aspect to the detriment of other pertinent factors, but it must be understood within an integrated journey of discipleship and configuration of Christ. That's why the training is lengthy to allow the candidates understand and

discern properly the essence and the ministry of priestly life. The truth of the matter is that priesthood must be understood as God's gift at the same time

a mystery beyond human grasp. As a gift and mystery, every priest is called to live a life grateful to God for being counted worthy to become part of the 'family of the presbyterate' sharing the sacred priesthood of Christ and ministering to Him, though in their human frailty. In his daily challenges, setbacks and anxieties, he is to be reminded of the similar passions of the True Lamb, Jesus Christ, whom

he represents fully by his identity and presence. However, the challenges faced while serving the Lord cannot outweigh the satisfaction of heart we receive while dispensing the mystery of salvation wholly realised in the risen Lord.

Therefore, young men must be motivated to join priesthood and religious life; "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few." (Mathew 9:37). There are moments that are so daring in priesthood that demotivate the aspirants and candidates to priesthood. Even those already

in the service at times express regrets when challenges come on their way. The nature of priestly vocation is to carry the cross and this is what the cost of discipleship is all about. The formation period in fact unfolds this reality of the cross of Christ. The cross becomes less-burden if only we abide in the Lord and in the gospel Jesus Christ states it very bluntly, "for apart from me, you can do nothing'- Jn. 15:5. Amidst all trials and temptations never let us be parted from you Lord.







# Christmas with St Francis



**I**t is Christmas Day: 25th December, 1223. Francis wants to relive Christ's birth. He orders that a crib be made in the woods. Side by side there is a live ox and an ass. At midnight, at the stroke of the bells, Friars and people flock to the woods.

Francis serves Mass as Deacon. He sings the Holy Gospel. At the words, *'And the Word was made flesh'*, a miracle takes place: the Infant Jesus appears in His divine splendour, in the arms of Francis. Everyone is struck with wonder. They all kneel and adore Him.



## DID YOU KNOW? 13 Interesting Facts about Catholicism ...

- The Catholic Church at over 2000 years old, is the oldest Christian Church in the world. One of the few that can actually trace its lineage back to one of the Apostles. All the other churches today came from those who broke away from the Catholic Church and consequently cannot boast valid Apostolic power as most of them are usually a little over or less than a century old.
- The Roman Catholic Church is only a part of the Catholic Church alongside 22 Eastern Rites that are in full communion with Rome. They have their own names and different rubrics and ways of prayer but they share the faith and doctrines of the Church. Examples are Coptic Catholic Church (NOT ORTHODOX), Eastern Catholic Church (NOT ORTHODOX), Maronite Catholic Church, etc.
- Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press, was Catholic and the first book ever printed was the Catholic Bible.
- The Catholic Church is responsible for gathering the Bible as it is today. They composed the Chapters and decided which books to be included after meticulous investigation. Other religions removed some of the books in the Bible like Tobit, Judith, Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. Mostly because these books do not fit into their theology. Catholics did not "add", others "removed".
- Even though the Catholic Church canonizes specific people to be venerated and emulated in the Catholic Church there is, however, no number as to how many saints there are. The thousands of saints we know today are only a fraction since anyone who enters heaven is a saint.
- Any Catholic may baptize someone at risk of dying as long as the person desires to be baptized. There are specific guidelines however and those must be followed. The person baptizing must study the Catholic Catechism for guidance. Generally, though, baptisms are left for the clergy.
- There are some parts of the world where the Catholic Church provides the only health care, education, and social work.
- The Catholic Church spends more money than Apple brings in. Expenditure by the Church, largely on charity, exceeded \$170 billion in 2012, according to The Economist magazine. In that same year, Apple took in \$157 billion in revenue.
- The Swiss Papal Guard protects the Pope. Wearing uniforms designed by Michelangelo and commonly armed with halberds, they are capable of using heavier weapons if needed. Each member is Catholic, male, and Swiss, and must complete military training in Switzerland. They must demonstrate good conduct and be at least five-foot-eight in height. New recruits meet the pope privately with their families. The Swiss Papal Guard is the oldest active military unit in continual existence since 1506.
- Katholikos, a Greek word meaning "toward the whole" is the root of the word "Catholic". St Ignatius used this word to show that the Church is a gift of Christ to all people.
- Not all 266 Popes of the Catholic Church have been from European countries. In fact, there have been five Popes from Syria (or of Syrian origin). Pope Francis is the first Pope from Argentina, the first Latin American, and the first Jesuit Pope.
- Emperor Constantine was the first Roman emperor to treat Christians with tolerance. He is said to have experienced a vision of the cross before a major war. In the Edict of Milan of 313 AD, he stopped the persecution of Roman Christians.
- Of all Papal Names, John is the most popular. There have been 21 Johns, 16 Gregories, 15 Benedicts, 14 Clements, 13 Innocents, and 13 Leos.



# St Kizito's New Library

**ST KIZITO MINOR SEMINARY**  
 P. O. Box 47, Dedza  
 Malawi  
 Central Africa  
 Cell: +265888166770/999045557  
 Email: chimtendere@gmail.com

5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

TO: Fr. Eddie Highton OFM,  
 Duns Scotus Friary,  
 270 Ballater Street,  
 Glasgow G5 0YT,  
 SCOTLAND.


Dear Fr. Eddie,  
**RE: EXPENDITURE REPORT ON THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS**  
 Receive greetings for the New Year 2023 from St. Kizito Minor Seminary.


Gratefully, I am most pleased to submit to you, Fr. Eddie, our expenditure report of funds in favour of purchase of academic books for the students. Find the following attachments:  
 1. A comprehensive report, receipts and payment vouchers  
 2. Pictures

Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude on behalf of the entire community for your usual kindness to us. Your donations have changed our school for the better.

May I assure you of our ardent prayers.

Happy New Year 2023!

Fraternally yours,  
  
 Fr. Mathews Chimtendere  
 (Rector)



**1.0 INTRODUCTION**  
 St. Kizito minor seminary is a non-profit making institution was opened in 1968 with the reason of helping needy students to access quality education. St. Kizito was also established to be a nursery of vocations to Diocesan Priesthood. In 2022 the seminary was privileged to receive a donation of funds worthy 9,349.73 Euros from Franciscan Friars from Scotland.

**2.0 THE AIM OF THE DONATION**  
 The donation was given to St. Kizito Minor Seminary in order to purchase academic books to allow students get exposed to different books in different subjects. For a long time, the school lacked updated versions of books recommended by the Ministry of Education. The shortage of books contributed to poor performance of students.

**3.0 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

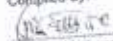
Donor	Amount in Euro/MKW (€1=MKW1000)
Fr. Eddie Highton	€9,349.73 / MKW9,349,730
Total Amount Used	MKW 9,297,178
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>MKW 42,802</b>


**4.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

No.	Item	Quantity	Cost / Unit	Amount (MK)
1.	Books	Assorted	Varied	8,721,250.00
2.	Materials for shelf	Assorted	Varied	337,428.00
3.	Transport/Gas/water/electricity	Varied	Varied	100,000.00
4.	Labour for bookshelf	2 Builders	Varied	120,000.00
5.	Other expenses	Varied	Varied	18,500.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,297,178.00</b>

**5.0 IMPACT**  
 1. The students are now exposed to different academic books very helpful in the process of learning.  
 2. Our teachers are able to teach well because of the availability of the teaching and learning materials.  
 3. Improved performance. I am very pleased to inform you that in the last academic year of 2022 St. Kizito Minor Seminary was graded the best performing school in the Malawi Government Examinations both in JCE (Junior Certificate Examination) and MSCE (Malawi School Certificate of Education) with 100% pass rate. The books we bought contributed to the great academic excellence.

**6.0 VOTE OF GRATITUDE**  
 On behalf of the entire seminary community, I wish to convey and express a token of thanks to you Fr. Eddie for the financial support given to St. Kizito which has greatly assisted us buy new academic books. You are ever in our prayers for your generosity to St. Kizito Minor Seminary.

Compiled By:  
  
 Rev. Fr. Mathews Chimtendere  
 (Rector)



St Kizito Minor Seminary in Dedza, Malawi received with grateful thanks a large quantity of books. These books will offer the students the opportunity to study and learn in a wide selection of topics.

Opposite is a copy of the email which Fr Highton received which details the expenditure figures and Fr Chimtendere's expression of gratitude to everyone who made this possible.



Reception of the wide selection of books to the Seminary Library ready to be stacked on the newly constructed shelving by eager students.



The following images show the craftsmen constructing the sturdy shelving, and then the finished products in use.

The books are reserved in the library for reference and general reading. However, many books are also

distributed to students in respective classes for actual learning.

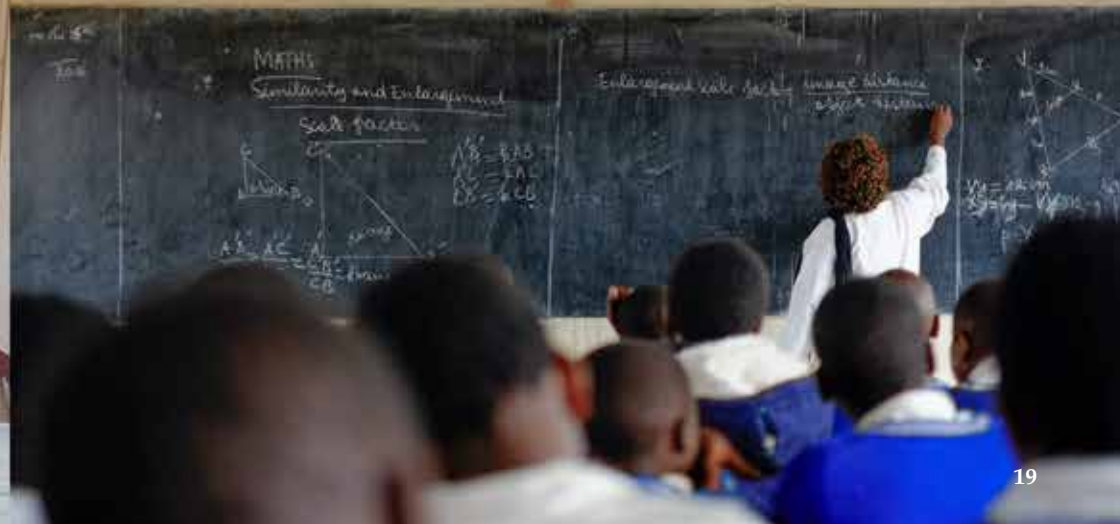
Students are divided in groups and books are distributed in the groups at the start of the term and collected as the term ends.



# Education

“You cannot educate without walking together with the people you are educating. It is beautiful when you find educators who walk together with boys and girls. To educate is not to say purely rhetorical things; to educate is to make what is said meet reality.”

Pope Francis





There's joy and wonder  
everywhere when you see the  
world through the eyes of a child.

