

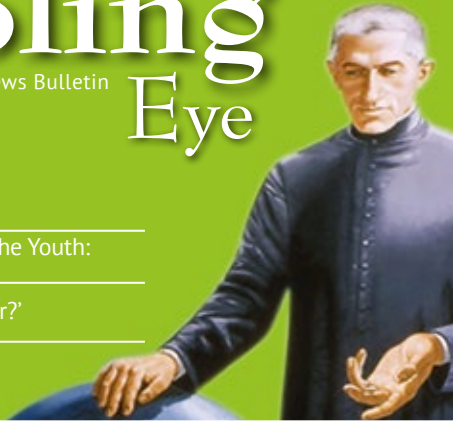
January 2018

The Consoling Eye

The Consolata Shrine Parish Monthly News Bulletin



- 02 Happy New Year
- 07 The year 2018 year for the Youth:
Youth and Faith
- 14 'Am I my brother's keeper?'
- 21 Children's Corner



***Youth,
Faith and
Vocational
Discernment***



Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi



@ConsoShrine



Dear Parishioners, Happy New Year! Joy to the world! The Lord has come. These are words we have been singing in the recent days to welcome the Messiah as we looked forward to usher the New Year 2018.

We take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year and pray that 2018 will be filled with many graces and blessings. At the beginning of a new year, we remember that all time belongs to Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Each day is a gift from Our Lord to serve Him and to respond to His call to follow Him as

His disciples to the joys of eternal life when there will be no more time.

We thank God for our bigger family of Consolata Shrine for the love of God which has made it possible to reach this far. The New Year has many plans, resolutions and expectations as individuals and as a family. May we make these resolutions to direct us throughout this year.

As we start this New Year we as the pastoral team we appreciate the journey of faith we made together in the past year as a family,

a year dedicated as a parish to the family. It was nice to reflect and pray on family life embracing all family members young and old, living and dead. May the prayers we made praying for our families bear fruit in our families in this New Year.

May we learn from our success and failures of the past year pondering the next move in this New Year as the philosopher Kierkegaard who said: Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards. Let our past be a stepping stone for the future.

Beginning a New Year is beginning a new journey of faith since we do not know where we are going. What is necessary is to allow God to show us the way. We should let Him be our shepherd. We may not know what 2018 hold for us, we may not even know the way into it but the Lord assures to show us the way. We may face challenges, but they will not prevail against us for the Lord will deliver us cf. Jer 1:19. So let us not be afraid to face this year because the Lord will be our shepherd.

Let us trust God more in everything we will be doing in this year. 2018 is not in the hands of anybody but in the hands of God. It is how we make use of our time in this world that will determine our eternal destiny: each day we must strive to love God with our

whole heart, mind, and soul—with all that we are and have—and to love our neighbors as ourselves, living the Commandments of God each day and repenting of our sins when we have failed to do so. Let us, at this beginning of the New Year, examine how we might more faithfully follow Christ this coming year, where we need to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, and how our love can grow for Our Lord and our neighbors. Let us look at this year with a fresh start and new resolutions, goals, hopes dreams. Let us be open to listen to God's voice.

As a parish we have many things to accomplish and it is our trust that united in Him will stand and be victorious. May you all have a blessed 2018 and may God bless our Consolata Shrine family. May we have that sense belonging in everything that we will be doing as a parish to make this place a better place for us to adore our God. Let us celebrate who we are and who we want to be as a family, by the Lord's standards, in this New Year. Let us leave no one out, but always be inviting and inclusive in our journey of faith. The LORD JESUS says to us daily, COME FOLLOW ME.

Through the intercession of the Mother of God, may each of you have a wonderful and grace-filled New Year. **CE**

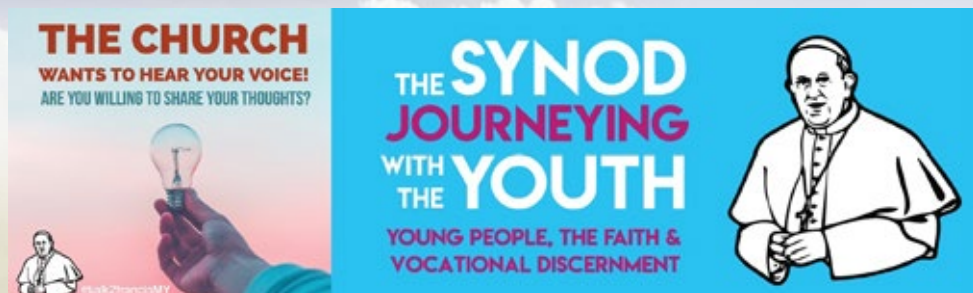
The Pastoral Team Desk

Pope's Prayers Intentions for January 2018

Evangelization:

Religious Minorities in Asia That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.





In October 2018 the bishops will meet in Rome for the 15th Ordinary General Assembly for the Synod of Bishops. The topic under discussion will be *'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.'*

Last year, a preparatory document was distributed outlining the principles and aims of the Synod:

'The Church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead the young people to recognise and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today.'

By listening to the young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today's world. As in the days of Samuel (cf. 1 Sam 3:1-21) and Jeremiah (cf. Jer 1:4-10), young people know how to discern the signs of the times, indicated by the Spirit. Listening to their aspirations, the Church can glimpse the world which lies ahead and the paths the Church is called to follow.' (From the Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment – Preparatory Document 2017)

The Holy Father wrote a letter to the young people to coincide with the launch of the preparatory document. Although it is primarily directed at the youth, the words are relevant to all of us. After all, we are all seeking ways to *serve the Lord with joy.*

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to young people on the occasion of the presentation of the preparatory document of the 15th ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops

My Dear Young People,

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment." I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your "compass" on this synodal journey.

I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." (*Gen 12.1*). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to "go", to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, "Go!", what did he want to say? He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling

invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this "new land" for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

But unfortunately, today, "Go!" also has a different meaning, namely, that of abuse of power, injustice and war. Many among you are subjected to the real threat of violence and forced to flee their native land. Their cry goes up to God, like that of Israel, when the people were enslaved and oppressed by Pharaoh (cf. *Ex 2:23*).

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher [...] where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see" (*Jn 1:38*). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the



extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: "Can we change things?" And you shouted: "yes!". That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: "Do not be afraid, [...], because I am with you to deliver you" (*Jer* 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice,

your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best." (*Rule of St. Benedict*, III, 3).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to "work with you for your joy" (*2 Cor* 1:24). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God's call with the words: "Here I am" (cf. *Lk* 1:38). ☩

With paternal affection,

FRANCIS

Given at the Vatican, 13 January 2017

The year 2018 year for the Youth: Youth and Faith

We have just begun a New Year, a year that the Church has dedicated for the youth. It is the year of faith and vocational discernment for the youth. It is a good way to honor the youth of the Church and also recognize them not just as leaders of tomorrow but also of today. It will help the young people to encounter God in Jesus Christ. The year is meant to appreciate the gifts and contributions of the youth in the Church. It will help them let go of preconceived ideas and the walls put up about being Catholic.

The theme of vocation discernment and faith encourages the young people to think about their future and have a strong sense of self in their life in the Church. This will help them build a strong sense of belonging in the Church.

The Church is determined to help young people find their purpose in life by being in relationship with God. What the young people lack is to know God and Jesus more personally. The passion of the Church is to focus and help them to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus. Youth need to have faith to discern their vocation, and as they listen and follow the call they continue to

grow in faith. The two go hand in hand.

Pope Francis tells young people not be afraid to listen to the Spirit and encourages them to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan for their lives. He encourages the young people to let their voices be heard throughout this year for the youth. "Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls", say the pope.

The youth can take the model of Jesus Christ who at twelve years old understood His faith and mission to the world. In His public life, Jesus did a lot for the sake of the kingdom. He understood His role of bringing salvation to the world. This was possible since His faith was deeply rooted in God the Father. He would always seek the will of God in prayer before doing anything else. He was well knowledgeable of the Holy Scripture something the youth in the present age need to deepen themselves in since ignorance to the Scripture is ignorance to Christ as St. Jerome puts it.

The message of Christ applies to all situations of life and time. Reading the signs



of the time is necessary so that the message of Christ may reach the lives of the youth. The youth have to strive to put their faith into action since faith without action is useless (Jas 2:17). They have to be properly armed as Christ was so that in case of any challenging questions about life they can be able to tackle them with courage and authority.

The Church of Christ stresses on equality and sense of belonging. It is the main reason why Paul writes by addressing the Galatians that all are one in Christ thus there is neither

Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male nor female (Gal 3:28). This enhances the communion between the old and the youth in the One Church.

St. Paul's letter to Timothy encourages him with these words: let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (1Tm 4:12). These words of Paul show the attitude people should have towards the youth who are the future of the family, Church and society. To be of great

importance in Church and society, the youth need to respect themselves and conduct their lives well.

St. Augustine had much trouble in his youth age as he searched for truth. His life is a reflection of all the youth at a certain moment of their life that they are not at peace as they try to venture in life. The preaching of St. Ambrose and the reading of some books of Platonists brought about a change in the life of the youthful Augustine. He listened attentively every Sunday to St. Ambrose preaching to people the Word of God and came to understand the secrets that it contained. He regretted having spent many years criticizing this very Word which has a message of truth. He realized that with all his intelligence he had not taken time to investigate about the truth of God's Word.

Pope Paul VI invites to faith the youth by these words: Circumstances invite us to make special mention of the young. Their increasing number and growing presence in society and likewise the problems assailing them should awaken in every one the desire to offer them with zeal and intelligence the Gospel ideal as something to be known and lived. And on the other hand, young people who are well trained in faith and prayer must become more and more the apostles of youth. The Church counts greatly on their contribution, and we ourselves have often

manifested our full confidence in them.

On his part; St. John Paul II says that the Church looks at herself in the youth. *He* encouraged and invited the youth to exercise the gifts they have received from God in communion with the Church. He recognized that the relationship between the youth and the Church is reciprocal. That is why he said that the Church has so much to talk about with the youth, and the youth have so much to share with the Church.

With the youth the future of the Church is assured. What the Church will be in the future depends on the youth's way of cooperating with the grace of God. The youth should be on the watch from any dangers which might ruin their future. The youth ought to be happy in their lives since God created man to be happy in life.

May this year dedicated to the youth be a year of grace for the youth to rediscover their vocation which is a call to holiness. Happy New Year and blessed journey of faith. **CE**

Fr. Evans Mochama
Assistant Parish Priest

Liturgy committee



Central to any Catholic Church worship is **Liturgy of the Eucharist**. Majority of people have either heard of the word Liturgy, associate with it or participate in liturgical activities every Sunday and where possible everyday, and where not possible at least during the days of obligations. But what is liturgy?

Liturgy is the center of a Catholic Christian life and an outstanding means through which the faithful express in their lives or manifest to others the mystery of Christ. It is at the heart of all parish life. The Liturgy committee and its ministry are central to all activities in the church. Although the term **liturgy** is used to **mean** public worship in general, the Byzantine Rite uses the term “Divine **Liturgy**” to denote the Eucharistic service.

Liturgical principles

The Catechism of the Catholic Church number 1136 defines Liturgy as an “action” of the *whole Christ* (*Christus totus*). As explained

in greater detail in the Catechism of the **Catholic** Church, liturgy is something that “the whole Christ”, Head and Body, celebrates – Christ, the one High Priest, together with his Body, the Church in heaven and on earth. In its devotion the Church makes a distinction (Catechism of the Catholic Church, s2132) between respectful veneration on one hand and adoration or worship on the other. Adoration is due to God alone— this includes the Eucharist, since Christ is truly present in that sacrament, according to Catholic dogma.

Parts of liturgy

The **liturgy** is divided into two main **parts**:

1. The **Liturgy of the Word** (Gathering, Proclaiming and Hearing the Word, Prayers of the People). The meaning of the celebration is expressed by the Word of God, which is proclaimed, and by the response of faith to it. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1190*)
2. And the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** (together with the Dismissal), but the entire **liturgy** itself is also properly referred to as the Holy Eucharist.

The **liturgy of the Eucharist** is the high point of the celebration. While the gifts (donations) of the people are being gathered and brought to the altar, an offertory song is typically sung. Meanwhile, the deacon and assistants prepare the altar. The liturgy of the Eucharist ends with a common dismissal e.g. “Go in Peace to proclaim the word of God”.

Signs in liturgy

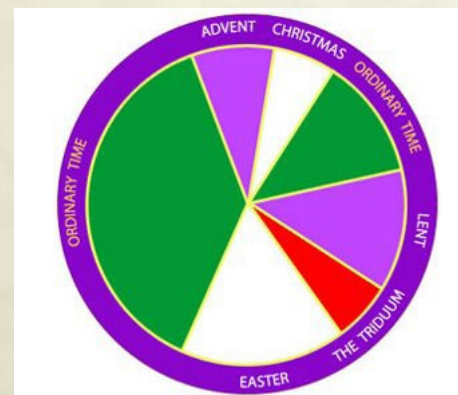
The liturgical celebration involves signs and symbols relating to creation (candles, water, fire), human life (washing, anointing, breaking bread) and the history of salvation (the rites of the Passover). Integrated into the world of faith and taken up by the power of the Holy Spirit, these cosmic elements, human rituals, and gestures of remembrance of God become bearers of the saving and sanctifying action of Christ. (*Chtsm 1189*).

Song and music are closely connected with the liturgical actions. *Singing is praying twice*. The criteria for their proper use are the beauty expressive of prayer, the unanimous participation of the assembly, and the sacred character of the celebration.

Liturgical seasons

Generally, the liturgical seasons are five;

1. Advent, Christmas,
2. Ordinary Time (Time after Epiphany),
3. Lent,
4. Easter,
5. And Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost).



The celebrants of the heavenly liturgy

The book of *Revelation* of St. John, read in the Church's liturgy, first reveals to us, “A throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne”: “the Lord God.”¹ It then shows the Lamb, “standing, as though it had been slain”: Christ crucified and risen, the one high priest of the true sanctuary, the same one “who offers and is offered, who gives and is given. Finally it presents “the river of the water of life . . . flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb,” one of most beautiful symbols of the Holy Spirit. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church number 1137*)

The Consolata Church Liturgy committee

The liturgy committee of Consolata shrine is the avenue for communication between the different **liturgical** ministry groups in the Parish. Apart from the Pastoral Team, other groups involve; Ministry of the Proclaimers (Lectors), Ministry of Alter servers, the Choirs and the Extra ordinary ministers of the Eucharist. These groups are central to seamless but beautiful liturgical celebrations that give meaning to worship. Another **role** of the parish **liturgy committee** is to provide opportunities for spiritual and practical formation for its own members, for the various **liturgical** ministers and for the parish as a whole. The Liturgy Committee is also an adviser to all other Committees of the Church in matters of appropriate Eucharistic celebrations. **CE**

By Amos Ochieng'
Convener Liturgy Committee

Pictures courtesy of Eric Fernandes



Beginning of Advent, Fr Ceasar lights the first Advent candle [03 December 2017].



Celebrating Christmas Mass, the church was decorated with a crib to remember the birth of Christ [25 December 2017].



Three kings on the Feast of the Epiphany celebrated on 8th January 2018 at Consolata Shrine.



Seven newly commissioned members of the Society of the Holy Childhood (PMC) on Epiphany Sunday.



Progress of the Allamano Centre construction continues, let us continue to offer our prayers and support to complete this project.



Celebrating Thanksgiving Family Day - Parishioners gave thanks for God's blessings offering their harvest during the mass. After mass there was a get together of parishioners where food was provided at one point even being served by Fr. Ceasar [03 December 2017].



‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’

For their annual camp, the Junior Youth went to YMCA NAIVASHA. As well as the usual fun and games, the young people were asked to ponder the questions, ‘*Am I my brother’s keeper?*’ They spent time reflecting on Bible verses and the words of the Church.

This was a good introduction to the upcoming *Year of Youth, faith and vocational discernment*. It was an opportunity to link their faith to every day life.

The reception and appreciation of the theme differed with each individual. Here are two reflections from Nikita and Bradley.

Nikita’s testimony.....

In Genesis 4:8-9, the question ‘*am I my brother’s keeper*’ came to be; “And Cain said to Abel his brother, ‘*Let us go out into the field*’ and when they were in the field, Cain rose up against him and killed him. And the Lord said to Cain, ‘*Where is your brother?*’ And he said, ‘*I do not know, am I my brother’s keeper?*’” This question, according to the excerpt represents an unwillingness to accept responsibility, as illustrated by Cain. Today, however, this question takes on a different meaning.

Being my brother’s keeper means looking out for those around as and displaying



unconditional love to these people. However being a *brother’s keeper* can prove challenging, especially when it comes with sacrifices such as self-denial. It’s human nature, as we all like to say.

For others, the question ‘*What’s in it for me?*’ pops up. After all, if I’m going out of my way, I might as well benefit. This is where the unconditional love comes in, even though it means that more often than not we’re on the line. Self after others, in short.

Examples of people in the Bible who were their ‘*brother’s keepers*’ are uncountable...

from the disciples, to the boy who gave out his five loaves and two fish to Phillip (John 6:9), to Jesus Christ Himself, when He healed the crippled woman on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17). In spite of opposition some of these people faced, their strong will to do good unto others, regardless of the consequences, helped build the foundation of Christianity. So whether it’s giving out that nice dress to the orphanage or even teaching your younger sibling to tie their shoelaces, we are all called to be our ‘*brother’s keeper*’ through our words and actions, no matter how small or big an impact they may have.

When I was first presented with this question, my mind went, ‘*Well, that’s something you don’t see everyday*’. Being part of the youth, being ‘*my brother’s keeper*’ was a concept I found difficult to grasp. Let’s be honest, everyone knows that one person, you know...the one people don’t talk to, the



Some of the Junior Youth after the cleanup at Hells Gate National Park Naivasha, during the Annual Youth Camp held at YMCA in Naivasha in December last year.

one people avoid, the one who is bullied. So why are these people there? The answer is quite simple really...fear. That it’s easier to pretend like they’re not there, after all, why do people avoid broken glass on the street? To avoid getting cut. Being a victim myself, I can confidently tell you, it ain’t fun being on

Youth Interviews

the receiving end. Seeing 'brothers' sit back and watch...don't get me wrong, it's not like they agree to it. They just don't want to be victims too.

There are those who are brave enough to stand up for the victims. People who don't mind being associated with these people in spite of the stigmatization they receive. Because of these people, being 'my brother's keeper' stops being a far-fetched concept and starts becoming a reality. What if we were all like this? Instead of conforming to the mantra 'me, myself and I', what if we all refused to sit back and watch a brother suffer?

No one said it was going to be easy, but I believe it is worth it. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how many friends you have, or how many millions you've made...what matters is how many lives you have touched. And that to me is what being "my brother's keeper" is all about.

Nikita Mungai,
Junior Youth

From Bradley's testimony.....
Life is all about granting those around us wishes that will assist them in future.

The question is "Am I my brother's keeper?" Brother meaning the society and those

surrounding us, not necessarily our own relatives. Not following Cain's steps when he ditched his brother Abel.

Being *my brother's keeper* is:

- ✓ Guiding, assisting, supporting, encouraging and leading as an example. These are the main key points to put into consideration when helping a brother.
- ✓ Never leaving the people in our midst especially our peers go astray or not keeping quite when our peers get into bad companies
- ✓ Motivating and counselling those who feel that there is no future for them or rather feel discouraged.

All these is evident if God is regarded as the main point of interest because in all these we have to put God first in order to succeed in all that we are doing. This means that we should remember to pray to strengthen our brother's faith to close the large gap of religion.

It is good to always engage in charity work as a way of helping society, not taking it as punishment but as paying back what society as a whole has done for us. In this way unity as a sign of brotherhood is built quite strongly and society will always regard us as role models and future leaders. We can then be regarded as capable of leading our brothers to the right path.

Spreading the Gospel is also key in being "my brother's keeper". We can preach the goodness of Lord to those who still do not believe in salvation.

When we practise these and many more positive things in society, then we shall

Youth Testimonies

surely by "Our brother's keeper"

Personal Account of the theme -
It strengthened me to engage in helpful activities with the Junior Youth group and the people who man Hell's Gate National Park, Naivasha.

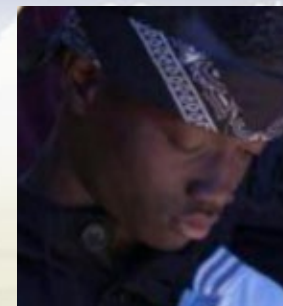
Challenges encountered:

- It quite hard to socialize with new junior youth members.
- It was not easy to know their likes and dislikes since we are not all the same

'Yes I have been my "brother's keeper" through the following:'

- ✓ Enlighten my peers to engage in positive social activities like cleaning up parts of the Hells Gate National park
- ✓ Engage in house chores during the holidays
- ✓ Assisting my siblings, neighbours and school mates in doing holiday assignment
- ✓ Encouraging my neighbors to attend mass and telling them the importance of knowing God

The theme matters to me and my peers because;
✓ I have come to realize that I cannot



do anything on my own I need to get support from someone to succeed.

It is worth discussing and pursuing the theme since;

✓ From experience, it has enabled me to see the positivity in being there for those in need and vice versa in very many ways.

✓ By doing so, we will be able to help so many brothers who need most our help and assistance.

Let us be "our brother's keeper" and not like Cain who never cared for his brother Abel. **CE**

Bradely Omondi Owade,
Junior Youth



I come from a family of four children and raised by our mother. I am a first born and 22yrs old. The second born is my sister who is 20yrs old then my other sister who is 12yrs old and the last born my brother who is 9yrs old.

I was born and raised Catholic

I wouldn't say it has been hard being Catholic in today's environment. I believe we have access to information about Catholicism and from that we can learn a lot. My family has also played a big role in my faith as my entire extended family is catholic so it has been a wonderful journey so far.

One activity is that we pray together at the start or the day and at the end of the day and every holiday my entire family gather at my grandparents' house for a thanksgiving mass. That has really enriched my life so far.

My name is Christopher Munywoki Mueni.

You can probably identify that the surname I proudly use, Mueni, is my mother's name.

My father has another family he lives on with. So I won't comment much about him.

My late mother, Loise Mueni Kilonzo, has been my rock and anchor all my life. My elder sister Veronica Mwikali Loise, 30 years old, is the first born while am the last born in the family. I am turning 24 on January 11th.

We have lived with my cousins, children of my late mother's sister, since their mother passed away in 2008. We call each other brother and sister. The first born is Frederick Mwendwa Wambua, 22; then his sister Caroline Mwende Wambua, 17.

We also live with my niece, my sister's child, called Valencia Mueni. She is almost 9 years old.

That is my family.

Now, we live on our own since my mother passed away in August last year, 2017.

My father only visits occasionally - not daily nor weekly nor monthly - occasionally.

My journey of Faith

When I was still very young my late mother took me to my grandmother's home in Kilungu.

All the way from nursery school to STD 4 I lived with my grandmother; going to church was a tradition. It was also a must to participate in church activities.

The whole village went to church - some to Sunday school, others went to catechism, and so on.

In class 5 I joined Mt Sinai Carmelite of Mary Immaculate (CMI) School, a catholic church-managed school in Syokimau.

My faith there was well nurtured before leaving in class 8.

My high school experience also increased my faith - I went to Pope Paul VI Junior Seminary in Machakos.

Activities I enjoyed as I attended mass every day include:

- Singing in the choir
- Serving mass as an altar boy
- Leading the choir

I felt more and more that church is the best place ever to be. When singing i feel like I'm truly serving the lord and serving in mass was like being among the angels.

After high school in 2013, my mother immediately enrolled me in the Consolata Shrine youth group. It was my first time at the shrine - everything there was new to me. I thank the youth leaders, youths and everybody who made my welcome more comfortable as i joined new group in a new place and met new people. In particular Michael Mugambi and Benedette made my stay much easier.

At Consolata Shrine my faith has grown everyday with:

- Choir, where I play the drums
- Prayer vigils
- Spiritual seminars and talks about faith
- Mission of faith
- Friends and peers in the catholic faith

I can say wherever you find a place you have been welcomed well there you shall dwell in peace and have growth of faith.

My name is Rose Ngesa I come from a family of six and I am the last born in my family, my dad past on in the year 2012, thus leaving my mum to take care of us, for sure it's not easy to be a single parent, my mum went through a lot of hard time to put a meal on the table for us.

2. I have been a catholic since my childhood and my parish has been Consolata shrine. As a young child I was dancing in the church and now as a youth a decided to join the proclaimers group. I love my faith especially the mass, adoration and the rosary. My entire family is Catholic too.

3. Being a Catholic in today's Environment has been challenging especially with the other protestant denominations that question the catholic faith and others go ahead to even criticize the faith.

4. The year of the family has been an awesome year especially in the parish, the Upendo activity was one of a kind, it brought the spirit of love, charity and togetherness. Also Consolata family day was a very unique event that brought parishioners together as one big family where we were able to share a meal and also participated in different activities that was organized by the parish officials, this two activities crowned the year of Family.

1. Well I come from a family blessed with 2 parents and several siblings. We are 10 children
2. That's simple. We are raised Catholic.
3. Being Catholic is tricky today. People rarely understand what it is happens in church. Trying to teach youth the faith and embracing the church not the religion is difficult but it is also a work in progress. I believe ecumenism will help the church to come back.
4. Well we do pray the rosary together and mainly go to mass together but what I believe has enriched us is the art of learning to pray together no matter the occasion.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY IS ALSO THE DAY WE CELEBRATE THE HOLY CHILDHOOD.

The feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday between the 2nd and 8th January. The actual feast day is 6 January. When we think of Epiphany Sunday we remember the Three Kings or Wise men from the East. However, the feast is all about the **Baby Jesus**.



The three foreign kings came to show the whole world that Jesus is King of all. He did not come for the house of Israel only, but for everyone. The kings are important because they have come from far, led by a star, to honour a baby, who was a greater king than themselves.

Jesus was not an ordinary child. He was holy and pure from His birth. The Church has chosen Epiphany Sunday as the day to celebrate the **Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood** also known as the Pontifical Missionary Childhood (PMC). The patron of the society is the **Child Jesus**.

On this day there will be a second collection at all the Masses. The offerings, from all the parishes, will be taken to our bishop, His Eminence, John Cardinal Njue. He, in turn, will forward the funds to the Holy Father, Pope Francis. This is because the **PMC** is one of the societies closely associated with the Pontiff, the Pope. All the money we give on Epiphany Sunday will be used to support suffering children all over the world.

We must all decide to have a Holy Childhood. The **PMC** motto is '**CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN.**' We are all encouraged to pray for other children and support them. We are close to the **PMC** at the Nest Children's Home in Limuru. In February, after the annual children's Mass with our bishop, we have lunch with them in the Shrine. On that occasion the **PMC** bring gifts for their brothers and sisters (toys, books, clothes and other items).

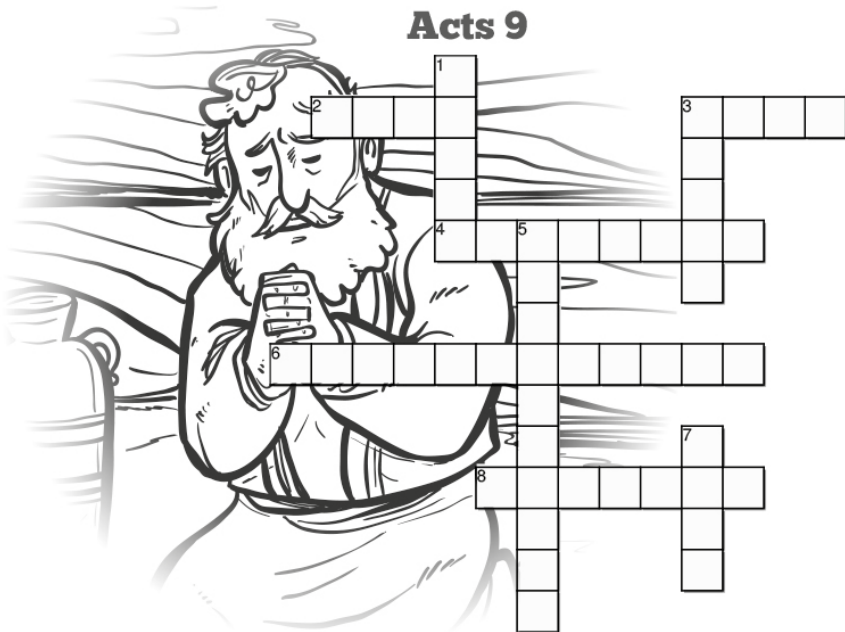


The Consolata Shrine **PMC** meet on Saturday afternoon, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. All children under the age of fourteen are welcome.

By Christian Education Committee

THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

Acts 9



Across

2. What new name did God give Saul?
3. Religious leaders were putting Christians in _____.
4. What city was Saul traveling to?
6. Paul suffered through jail, stoning, shipwreck, beating, riots, _____, and pain to bring the gospel far and wide.
8. Who did God send to Saul to heal him?

Down

1. A light that was brighter than the sun left Saul _____.
3. Who asked Saul, "Why are you persecuting me?"
5. God chose Paul to be a _____, and spread the good news of Christ.
7. Who was the worst enemy of the Christians, and the one who had presided over Stephen's death?



© SharefaithKids. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction or Reselling forbidden. Not for use without an active SharefaithKids subscription.

Baptisms in December

1. John Paul Obadah of Mart Bernadette and Vincent Obadha
2. Martin Milan Mutuku of Irene Adisa Shivachi and Robert Matu Muvua
3. Teresa Shamah Wanjiku of Esther Wambui and Said Juma
4. Nathan Jeremy Atukunda of Zipporah Kemunto and Michael Stanley Lado
5. Skyler Grace Wambui of Lilian Nambuya and Edward Njoroge Karuga
6. Mark Mahli Ndungu of Catherine Mwanzia and Moses Kagema Ndungu
7. Imani Wanjiku of Catherine Mwanzia aAnd Moses Kagema Ndungu
8. Michael Ngunjiri Kauma of Angela Waitherero and Edwin Kauma Murani
9. Gad Rop Chirchir of Grace Njeri Muiruri and Mathew Kipchirchir Chepseba
10. Keith Nyongesa Mumataya of Sylvia Naliaka aAnd Herbert Nyongesa
11. Florence Muthoni of Judith Byasuguta and Christopher Wanjohi
12. Noella Leilani Wacuka of Susan Wangui Njogu
13. Lorain Imani Ochieng of Linda Wasike and Edmund Constantine Ochieng
14. Michael Njeru oOf Stella Natalia Chami and John Mwaniki Njeru
15. Leo Edmund Luvita of Phidelia Andeka and Vincent Adede Luvita
16. Liam Kabari Ouma of Caroline Wangeshi and Patrick Ouma Oduogi
17. Henry Nantai Ruara of Judy Wangui and Samuel Henia Ruara
18. Earvin Joseph of Sheila Olga Bakhita and David Kangethe
19. Adrian Mungai Njuguna of Anne Mwangi and Peter Njuguna
20. Leo Mwangi Njuki of Siah Ernest Mallya and Hilary Njuki Mwangi
21. Kayla Starling of Sheliza Andris and Mervir Eric Andris
22. Alyssa Wairimu of Angelica Agatha Wangui Ndungu
23. Gilbert Momanyi of Gladys Nyatich and Franklin Misoka Mabeya

24. Fabian Maingi of Lucia Kaveke and Hezron Ngila
25. Enzo Nikolai of Marlene Antonina Arguelo Slowing

Marriage Banns in January 2018

There is a promise of marriage between:

1. Dorina Nabwala Osyangu and Kevin Ssali Kiggundu
2. Victoria Njoki Waiguru and Gilbert Robi Masero
3. Rosemary Njeri Macharia and Patrick Mwigigi Riungu
4. Oluoch Valary Atieno and Dennis Thomas Jakobsen
5. Sarah Muthoni Muturi and Fredrick Kihu Njoroge
6. Mary Audrey Musibega and Felix Meshack Onyango Tinag

Note: If anyone knows of any particular reason why the above ceremony cannot take place, please report immediately to the Parish Priest.

Weddings in December 2017

1. Jackline Mkoji Mwandawiro and Patrick Mbau Malika
2. Ann Wahuwa Mubia and Tom Mwenda Murungi
3. Joan Jesang Kiptorus and Francis Mondiri Busi
4. Lenity Kiende Muriira and Michael Mutugi Mwai
5. Anne Njembi Wanjui and Joseph Barrage Wanjui
6. Maxine Khakasa Nabukwesi and Savio Ochieng Omalla
7. Trudea Namwali Juma and John Chege Njuguna
8. Rahab Njeri Mbugua and Joseph Mbugua Wango
9. Judith Nthambi Masinga and Martin Muendo Kitavi
10. Amanda Shirley Severins Fernandes and Colin Malcolm Correia
11. Doreen Jepngetich Metto and Vitalis Maurice Wanyonyi

EVENTS OF THE PARISH FOR JANUARY 2018

Sun 14th	2nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (B) 9.00am Youth Mass – <i>Launch of the Year of Youth, faith and discernment.</i> Prayers for the Sick at all Masses. Youth sports day with St. Josephs on Consolata field.
Thurs 18th	Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sat 20th	Ecumenical Prayers for the Week of Christian Unity at St Paul's University Chapel, 3pm - 6pm.
Sun 21st Jan	3rd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (B) Formation for Parents and Sponsors of infant baptism candidates at 3pm. Talk to the Youth by Dr. Pamela Mandela.
Sat 27th Jan	Ongoing formation for children who have received First Holy Communion and are yet to start confirmation, 10am – 1pm. Infant Baptism, 2.30pm.
Sun 28th Jan	4TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (B) Youth at Consolata Seminary for celebration of Feast Of Joseph Allamano. 9am – Children's Mass.