

Review of Bulletin Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), „Promoting Faith and Justice”, Second Quarter 2013.

The JCTR is a household name. That simple expression - meaning something like, “Everybody knows the JCTR!” - may not be universally true all over Zambia. But it did have an influence on a decision made a few years ago to keep the full name “Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection” to describe the office begun in 1988 as a project of the Society of Jesus in Zambia and Malawi.

The JCTR is a faith inspired reading of the signs of the times, especially from the perspective of the poor, and interpreting appropriate and effective social justice responses. JCTR’s a “household name”.

In this issue, Musonda Kabinga, from the Economic Equity and Development Programme (EED) of the JCTR takes us on a tour of some of Zambia’s Natural Resources and Historical Sites. There is no better time than this, two months before the UNWTO, to know more about the beauty that this lovely country is endowed with. He informs us that while Northern Zambia has abundant natural resources and historical sites useful for tourism, the potential is unexploited. There is need to quickly improve infrastructure in the province to enhance accessibility to the historical sites national parks and waterfalls.

The question about the relationship between the Church and the State has a long historical background. Often than not, politicians - especially when the Church challenges them about serious social issues - tend to respond by saying that the Church should confine itself to the pulpit and works of charity. Bernard Mumba, in his article, reflects on the relationship between the state and the church. He proposes that instead of either Church or the State begin to look at each other as enemy, the state and the church should on the whole consider each other as partners in development.

The story of David in the book of 1 Samuel always makes good reading especially when one considers the way King David passes judgement on the man in the parable of Nathan. In this issue, Brian Banda sets to propose a reading of Nathan’s parable to David as manifesting David - a man after God’s own heart - as a man who firmly stands for justice and one who is open to repent of his sin and is also willing to take God’s punishment for his own sin.

The plight of refugees most often requires a rights based response. Sr. Kayula Lesa, RSC, discusses reconciliation in the context of Refugees. She proposes that interventions aimed at realising refugee rights should also include the promotion of reconciliation and the processes of reconciliation before even refugees return to their home countries.

Mark Ngwenya SJ takes us through a philosophical reflection on Time. The questions he raises will get you glued to his article. Is “African time” a real thing?

Does it mean that the habit of most Africans starting programmes thirty minutes late characterise how they view time? Is it plausible to claim that women do not generally stick to time or to postulate that poverty is a failure to use time wisely? Through these questions, Mark discusses the possibility of having a multi-dimensional approach to time which can help one appreciate life more.

In African traditional rites of passage, Noah Lungu critically explores the rites which begin with the birth of every African. He contends that rites of passage in African religions mark a transition of individuals from one cycle of life to another.

The monthly Basic Needs Basket gets extensive media coverage, showing the great disparity between what is needed to meet food and other requisites for household security and what is actually taken home as salaries by most workers in the country. Cooperating with professors from the University of Zambia, this Project has also been able to produce important studies on living conditions of teachers, education costs for families and health equity possibilities.

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), in line with its vision for a society where faith promotes justice for all in all spheres of life.

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