GENERAL INFORMATION

Robert N. Bellah: The DLSC mourned the passing of Bob Bellah, who died several months ago in Berkeley. An active member of the Episcopal Church and frequent participant in discussions of our Berkeley/Oakland chapter, Bob was a leading scholar and pioneer in the sociology of religion. His last book in the field was *Religion in Human Evolution*. May he rest in peace.

Glen H. Stassen: The DLSC is also grieving over the more recent loss of Glen Stassen, a member of our Pasadena area chapter. A Baptist theologian, peace activist, and civil rights organizer, Glen was a long-time professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary. His much-valued participation in DLSC group discussions was always highly informed, incisive, and energetic. May he rest in peace.

Chaldean Patriarchate: fr. Yousif Thomas Mirkis, O.P., an Iraqi Dominican friar, has been elected Archbishop of Kirkuk of the Chaldeans in that branch of the ancient Syriac *Church of the East*, led by the Catholic Patriarch of Babylon. He is a theologian, historian of religion, ethnographer; founder of the *Academy of Human Sciences* in Baghdad; and a member of the *Union of Iraqi Journalists*.

Richard Madsen: After chairing the sociology dept. at the University of California San Diego for several years, Dick has been appointed Provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College, one of UCSD’s seven undergraduate colleges.

DSPT Colloquium: The Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology (DSPT) in Berkeley has organized a conference on the theme *What has Athens to do with Jerusalem: Dialogue between Philosophy and Theology in the 21st Century*. The conference will be held July 16-20, 2014 at DSPT. Plenary session presenters will include Michael Dodds, O.P., Edward Feser, Alfred Freddoso, John O’Callaghan, Michal Paluch, O.P., John Searle, and Linda Zagzebski. The organizer of the conference is Bryan Kromholtz, O.P, Regent of Studies for the Western Dominican Province. The colloquium will be the first in a DSPT series.

GROUP MEETINGS

Topics and readings for DLSC quarterly meetings are selected by individual members on a rotating basis. Over the past 12 months, DLSC chapters have discussed themes and excerpts from the following readings:

*Upholding Discourses in Various Spirits* – Soren Kierkegaard

*Innocence* – Stephen R. Munzer

*Purity of Heart* in Kierkegaard: Several Commentaries – Munzer, Tucker, Connell, Walker

*Old English Narrative Poems of Old Testament Stories in Genesis and Exodus*

*Sin and Salvation from An Introduction to Christology* – Tom Rausch, S.J.

*The Social Profile of the Latin Church, 312-370 ce* from *Through the Eye of the Needle* – Peter Brown

*In God’s Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible* – Michael Walzer
**BRIEF NOTES ON ACTIVITIES OF SOME DLSC MEMBERS**

The Lagrange DLSC chapter in Nairobi sent us a detailed report of their members' activities over the past year (2013). To provide ample coverage for this interesting report, this section of our 2014 newsletter will be limited to it. A report on activities of other DLSC members will resume in the next issue of the newsletter.

**Lagrange Chapter Report 2013**

Members of Lagrange Dominican Lay Scholars Community met on Sunday 21 December 2013 to share about their activities of the year 2013. This meeting which took place at Mr and Mrs Loba’ residence (Lavington, Nairobi) was attended by Rev and Mrs Carlson, Fr. Maury Schepers, and Mr and Mrs Loba (Elisabeth Nyembo Aziza). The next meeting is to be hosted by Fr. Maury Schepers on 16 February 2014 at Lonergan Centre / Saint Dominic House (Karen, Nairobi). The discussion topic will be “Lonergan Philosophy”, which will be facilitated by Fr. Maury Schepers.

**2013 ACTIVITIES**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole (op)**

*Study*
- Canon Law (personal reading)
- Greek Language (personal reading)
- New Testament books (personal reading)

*Teaching, training or supervising*
- “Deutero-Pauline Letters. Introduction and Theology” (University of Pretoria)
- Consultancy: Bible translation projects in Swahili, Lingala, Otetela, Ngbandi and Ngbandi-Ngiri languages (Bible Society of D.R. Congo)

*Research, Conference Papers, Book Reviews, Translations and Publications*
- The significance of Bible Translations for African Theological Education, in Isabel Phiri and Dietrich Werner (Editors), *Handbook on Theological Education in Africa*, Oxford: Regnum Books International (Regnum Studies in Global Christianity), 2013,
- “Interculturality in New Testament Exegesis and Translation” (paper presented at Colloquium Novi Testamenticum Pretoria, Department of New Testament Studies, University of Pretoria)
- “Greek Pronunciation according to Chrys Caragounis” (paper presented at Postdoctoral Seminar, Department of New Testament Studies, University of Pretoria)
- “Have Salt and Make Peace (Mk 9:50)” (paper presented at NTSSA Annual Conference, UNISA, Pretoria)
- “Rhetoric of Reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5:20” (Paper presented at SNTS Annual Meeting, University of Murdoch, Perth, Australia)
- “Theological Topics and Paradigms in Africa” (ongoing research project)
- Triple Interculturality in Philo’s Legatio (ongoing research project)
- Greek-Swahili New Testament Interlinear (proof-reading)

Mrs. Elisabeth Nyembo Aziza (op)

Study
- Gospel of Matthew (personal reading)
- Canon Law (Together with St Catherine of Siena Fraternity, Nairobi)
- Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful (Annual retreat topic)

Teaching, training or supervising
- French Tuition for Common Entrance and International General Certificate Secondary Education (IGCSE), Nairobi

Research, Conference Papers, Book Reviews, Translations and Publications
- Leadership Structure of the Lay Dominicans (St Catherine of Siena Fraternity, Nairobi and Zonal Retreat of Eastern African Lay Dominican Fraternities, Kisumu)
- Who are Lay Dominicans and Different Way of Preaching (International Dominican Youth Movement, Nairobi)
- Translating from French into English: “Programme Bon Samaritain pour enfants. Manuel de Formation” “Take Charge”,

Fr. Maury Schepers, op

Teaching, training, supervising or sponsoring
- Sponsoring the fifth annual lecture in honour of Lonergan. The speaker was Zacharia Chiliswa of Hakimani (Jesuit organization to promote justice and peace [conflict resolution]). The Centre also supports reading circles that meet periodically.

Research, Conference Paper, Book Reviews and Publications
- “Getting off on the Right Foot: Intellectual Conversion, Basic Project for University Education.” In Proclaiming the Good News [Tangaza Occasional Paper, 24], Pauline, 2013,
- On-going project in ecclesiology: a book on the Church (an effort to understand the mystery and express it in explanatory terms for the third state of meaning).
Rev. Aloo Mojola (Anglican)

*Teaching, training or supervising*

Three public lectures as a Visiting Professor and Guest Speaker at Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana on the occasion of launching the Prof Kwesi Dickson and Prof Gilbert Anse Professorial Chair of Mother Tongue Hermeneutics at the Seminary and installation of Prof John David Ekem as occupant of this Chair.

- Why mother tongue hermeneutics is unavoidable – a Bible translator’s perspective
- Clearing the forest, demarcating and naming the territory – God, spirits and other key terms
- The common fear of employing terminology from the indigenous mother tongue world – an attempt to understand the OT concepts of purity and ritual cleanness with special reference to translating Numbers 19 and some related aspects of Leviticus 11-15, a case study drawn from the perspective and world view of the Gorwa and Iraqw communities of Tanzania.

*Research, Conference Paper, Book Reviews and Publications*

- “The Chagga scapegoat purification ritual and another re-reading of the goat of “Azazel” (עֲזָאזֵל) in Leviticus 16 - preliminary observations”, forthcoming as a chapter in a Festschrift in honor and in memory of a great African scholar and theologian, visionary, mentor, teacher and friend – the Rev Prof Dr Kwame Bediako, in 2013.

Rev. Robert Carlson (Anglican)

*Teaching, training or supervising*

- “Graduate research and writing” (PhD course, Africa International University)
- “History of Bible translation” (MA course, AIU)

*Research, Conference Paper, Book Reviews and Publications*

- Ongoing research: reconstruction of proto-Senufo (the language family to which Supyire belongs).

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Claude,

Mr Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole, OP
Lagrange Dominican Lay Scholars Community
President