



## CONTENTS

PEP UP.....	2
TEEN PRAYERS: A LETTER TO JESUS.....	3
KNOW THE EASTER STORY.....	4
YOUNG & THE BIBLE.....	5
SITE SEEING.....	6
LAST DROP.....	7

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- Jambo You(th) is a weekly news letter aimed at helping the Youth in molding their daily lives in Christ.
- Our vision consists in two phrases: 'GOOD CHRISTIANS' and 'HONEST CITIZENS.'

Editors: Anastasio Sdb & Shyjan Sdb

## WANJIKU'S LONG SAFARI

There is a story about a certain East African woman named Wanjiku. She was very beautiful and energetic. All the people looked at her when she walked through the city. Then God beset Wanjiku with many troubles. Her father died. Her mother died. Her husband died. Wanjiku began to despair. She cried out and asked God, "Why, Oh God? Why have you done this to me? Why have my dear ones died? My father and mother were very old, but my husband was not old at all. "Her first-born child died suddenly. Then Wanjiku held her youngest child to her breasts and pleaded to God, "Don't take this one. He is my life. He is my support. Don't take my child. Who will take care of me when I am old?" But the child died in Wanjiku's arms. Finally Wanjiku lost even her wealth and possessions. She stood up and raised her voice to God in heaven, "Why have you afflicted me so? Why have all my family died?" Then Wanjiku built a high tower to climb up to heaven to talk with God about the death of all her family. She did not understand the meaning of death. But the tower collapsed. Then Wanjiku looked around and saw the horizon stretching out to link together heaven and earth. She said, "Now I know a good way of reaching God." So she started to walk toward the horizon. She thought that in this way she would finally reach heaven. Wanjiku walked. She walked very far. She walked around the whole world without reaching heaven. But she kept walking. People laughed when she passed them. They asked Wanjiku, "Where are you going?" Wanjiku explained her plan to walk to heaven in order to talk with God about the meaning of death. People laughed even louder and said, "All of us human beings will die. What about you?" But Wanjiku continued to walk around the whole world. Finally she reached Jerusalem in Israel during Easter time. She was one of the women at the empty tomb of Jesus Christ very early on Sunday morning as the Gospel of Easter says. At that time Wanjiku received light concerning her problems and an answer from God concerning the meaning of death. She learned that it is necessary to die before meeting God in heaven. Death is the door to enter everlasting life. We follow Christ in his death and resurrection. In Jerusalem Wanjiku understood many things and believed.

By Father Joseph Donders, M.Afr

Lesson: There is no Easter without a Good Friday. Suffering and death are part and parcel of life. But the consolation is that Christ has conquered death by his death and resurrection.

## A LETTER TO JESUS

Dear Jesus,

How are you in heaven? Is everything o.k. there? Is there pop , joy and laughter there? What do you think of your people here on earth? I know most of them don't please you but may you help me to be some one good before you. My friend Jesus, I am writing this letter to thank you for all the things you have done for me. You gave me parents whom I love very much and so many friends more than I can count. As we approach this Easter season, I have decided to part from the others so that I can write to you. I would also like to apologize for all the wrongs I have done. I hope you will forgive me. Please also help me to help others when they are in need. May you also help me to forgive others and reconcile with them when they do something wrong. My dear friend Jesus, there has been a question that I have always wanted to ask you. The question is, how is my cousin Elizabeth who died in 2001 doing? Is she fine? I hope she is. Please tell her that I miss her and I wish she was still here with me. Tell her that I love her and I wish her the best till I see her again. Thank you Jesus for giving me all the talents I have. Thank you also for giving me your listening ear and your time to listen to my prayers and everything I say. You have given me almost everything I have asked for and what you have not given me, I am sure you are going to give me sooner or later and so I am waiting. Apart from these, I love you more than you ever know.

From your loving child,

*Elizabeth Wambui - Mutuini*

## STORY OF EASTER

Easter, the principal feast of the Christian year is celebrated on a Sunday on varying dates between March 22 and April 25 and is therefore called a movable feast. Easter embodies many pre-Christian traditions. The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St Bede, believe it probably comes from “Çostre”, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox (March 21); traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in coloured Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colours to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg-rolling contests or given as gifts. Most scholars also emphasize the original relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived “Pasch”, another name for Easter. The early Christians, many of whom were of Jewish origin, were brought up in the Hebrew tradition and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover festival. According to the New Testament, Christ was crucified on the eve of Passover and shortly afterwards rose from the dead. In consequence, the Easter festival commemorated Christ’s Resurrection. In time, a serious difference of opinion arose among Christians over the date of the Easter festival. Those of Jewish origin celebrated the Resurrection immediately following the Passover festival on the 14th day in the month of Nisan, the first month of the year, not necessarily on a Sunday. Christians of Gentile origin, however, wished to commemorate the Resurrection on the first day of the week, Sunday. Constantine I, Roman emperor, convoked the Council of Nicaea in 325. The council unanimously ruled that the Easter festival should be celebrated throughout the Christian world on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on the Sunday following. Coincidence of the feasts of Easter and Passover was thus avoided.

## HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

“Christus resurrexit!” -- Christ is risen! “He is not here ... he is risen.” The heavenly messengers announce first and foremost that Jesus “is not here”: The Son of God did not remain in the tomb, because it was not possible for him to be held prisoner by death (cf. Acts 2:24) and the tomb could not hold on to “the living one” (Revelation 1:18) who is the very source of life. He made his pilgrim way on earth among us, he completed his journey in the tomb as all men do, but he conquered death and, in an absolutely new way, by an act of pure love, he opened the earth, threw it open toward heaven. His resurrection becomes our resurrection, through baptism which “incorporates” us into him. The prophet Ezekiel had foretold this: “Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 37:12). These prophetic words take on a singular value on Easter Day, because today the creator’s promise is fulfilled; today, even in this modern age marked by anxiety and uncertainty, we relive the event of the Resurrection, which changed the face of our life and changed the history of humanity. From the risen Christ, all those who are still oppressed by chains of suffering and death look for hope, sometimes even without knowing it. May the Spirit of the risen one, in particular, bring relief and security in Africa to the peoples of Darfur, who are living in a dramatic humanitarian situation that is no longer sustainable; to those of the Great Lakes region, where many wounds have yet to be healed; to the peoples of the Horn of Africa, of Ivory Coast, Uganda, Zimbabwe and other nations which aspire to reconciliation, justice and progress. In Iraq, may peace finally prevail over the tragic violence that continues mercilessly to claim victims. I also pray sincerely that those caught up in the conflict in the Holy Land may find peace, and I invite all to patient and persevering dialogue, so as to remove both ancient and new obstacles. May the international community, which reaffirms Israel’s just right to exist in peace, assist the Palestinian people to overcome the precarious conditions in which they live and to build their future, moving toward the constitution of a state that is truly their own. May the Spirit of the Risen One enkindle a renewed enthusiastic commitment of the countries of Latin America, so that the living conditions of millions of citizens may be improved, the deplorable scourge of kidnapping may be eradicated and democratic institutions may be consolidated in a spirit of harmony and effective solidarity.

## AN EASTER SITE FOR ALL

[www.jesusandeaster.com](http://www.jesusandeaster.com)

What is the meaning of Easter? While the focus was once on Easter Sunday, now it is on the Easter Bunny. But Easter Sunday is much more than a day of colorful plastic eggs and chocolate bunnies; it is in fact a day that left the world forever changed. It had been three days since Jesus had received the death penalty by popular vote. His friends and followers were devastated, as they had come to believe that He was not just an ordinary man, but the Son of God. He had performed miracles, healed every disease, and even brought a man back from the dead. On that third day—the day we now celebrate as Easter Sunday—His friends went to His grave, but instead of finding His body, they found an open tomb with no body in it.

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right...

*Phillips Brooks*

*"Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." Clarence*

*"Christianity begins where religion ends...with the resurrection" Herbert Booth*