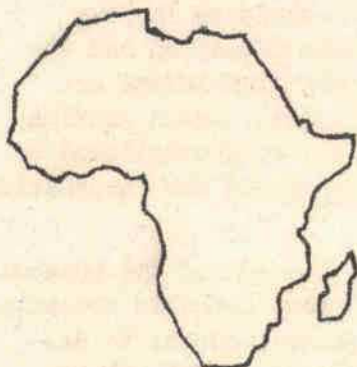




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# AFRICAN NEWSLETTER



PAX ROMANA - INTERNATIONAL  
MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS

1955

No 2

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An information bulletin for Catholic students and graduates in Africa, published periodically by the General Secretariat of Pax Romana - International Movement of Catholic Students, 14 rue St. Michel, Fribourg, Switzerland.

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## THE PURPOSE

Almost one year ago the first issue of the Pax Romana African Newsletter was produced by the General Secretariat from Fribourg, Switzerland, and distributed amongst Catholic student societies and individual Catholic students and graduates in Africa. At the time it was hoped that it would be possible to publish about four issues a year, but this has in fact proved impossible. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties in the past, those readers who receive a copy of this issue of the Newsletter can look forward to a regular publication in the future.

The primary aim of the Newsletter is the breaking down of the barriers of isolation which at present surround many of the Catholic student groups in Africa, and which at present impede the development of the apostolate amongst Catholics in universities and other institutions of higher education in Africa. This aim is not one which is peculiar to Pax Romana's work in Africa - it is the reason for the very existence of Pax Romana itself. The national Catholic student federations and the individual Catholic student societies that are linked with Pax Romana form an international community of Catholic students throughout the world. If this community is to be more than nominal it must be dynamic, a living reality. Its members must be engaged in a constant pooling of ideas, experiences and techniques, so that they can help each other towards a clearer realisation and a fuller implementation of their role in the service of the Church and of society.

The building up of a real community of Catholic students throughout Africa is as yet in its infancy. At present the main obstacles seem to be geographical and financial, though there is also the fact that most of the University and college societies are themselves young in years. In order to overcome these obstacles and build up a community, it is an urgent necessity that human communication should be established. Rightly and inevitably this depends on the Catholic societies and their members, and this Newsletter can only provide an aid and an encouragement to this work.

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The second aim of Pax Romana's work in Africa is related to the first. It is the integration of the community of Catholic student in Africa in the world community of Catholic students - that is, Pax Romana. Just as Catholic students in, for instance, East and West Africa can benefit by exchanging their ideas, so can the work of Pax Romana in the world advance when Catholic students from Africa are put into contact with their fellows in other continents - in Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe. This is a work which cannot properly be accomplished by a Newsletter of this kind, but rather by the Pax Romana Journal and the international meetings that are organised by Pax Romana.

In some African universities, this Newsletter may arrive at the end of the academic year, when examinations are finishing and members of the various Catholic societies dispersing to their homes. Nevertheless we do ask all who receive copies to distribute it as widely as possible. This issue consists largely of reports about universities and Catholic societies in Africa: it is hoped that future issues will contain more articles by African students on the problems that they face in their universities, on the role that they think that Catholic students and graduates should play in the civic and cultural life, indeed in the whole life of their country. During the coming vacation we would like Catholic students in Africa to think about these questions, and to submit articles, long or short, which will help to clarify the responsibility of the African student to his university and his country.

### PAX ROMANA AND AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

During the Interfederal Assembly of Pax Romana (International Movement of Catholic Students) which was held in Switzerland in 1954, an African Commission met to discuss the problems of Catholic university students in Africa. At the end of its discussion, the Commission presented the following report, which was adopted unanimously by the whole Assembly:-

The University in Africa exists in a society which is at present changing its form almost completely. This makes the problems of the University in Africa unique, and only Africans themselves can solve them. The part played by Catholics at present will be of tremendous significance for the future. It is urgently necessary that African students and intellectuals awake to the creative rôle in Africa which is their responsibility.

The first necessity in Africa is the establishment of contacts between student societies in different parts to draw on a common experience since the individual Catholic Societies are inadequate in themselves to tackle these problems. A contact with Asiatic Federations where problems to a limited degree are similar, may be valuable specially in East Africa where there is an important Asiatic community, and a healthy contact with Asia is desirable.

Only one federation affiliated to Pax Romana exists in Africa: the N.C.F.S. in South Africa. The General Secretariat has made contact with universities in Senegal, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Uganda. Contacts have yet to be made with Gordon College, Khartoum and with Ethiopia. Universities are being established in the Congo and Central Africa, and contact will certainly be made in the future. Contact has yet to be established with other centers of higher education, such as Technical Colleges and teachers training colleges in the territories mentioned above. A federation is in the process of formation in



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East Africa, so that Saint Augustine's Society at Makerere College and St. Ferdinand's Society at the Engineering School may become affiliated to Pax Romana. It is hoped that this example will soon be followed elsewhere, even if this means that a federation embraces only one centre of higher education.

The Newsletter initiated by the General Secretariat must be the chief organ among societies and federations. The Commission felt that it would be for the best if the Newsletter were published in Africa itself. At present it is only the South African federation that is technically capable of publishing this Newsletter. It would be better if the Newsletter were published by a federation more representative of Africa but at the moment this is not possible. The Commission recommends that the publication of the Newsletter be made the responsibility of N.C.F.S. as a temporary measure only.

The Newsletter must be directed so as to supply as much useful information as possible over as wide an area as possible. Suitable contributions should be encouraged from all centres. Though the dissemination of news and information should be the main object of the Newsletter, articles of a general intellectual nature and editorial matter should be included rather on the lines of the first issue published by the General Secretariat.

The commission received short reports from France, Belgium, Britain and Portugal on the position of African students in these countries. Since nothing had been prepared on this subject, and since no time was available for a general discussion no satisfactory conclusions could be drawn. The position of African students in these countries is certainly diverse. In England, African students are catered for by an Overseas Chaplain, and there is a society of Nigerian post-graduate students, whereas in Portugal Africans are assimilated into the Portuguese culture and into Portuguese student organizations.

African students overseas returning to their native land can form the nucleus of graduate movements where such do not exist or can be encouraged to join existing movements. 'European' graduates proceeding to work in Africa, whether in the mission fields, the civil service, or in commercial concerns should also be encouraged to do such work. A future commission of the Interfederal Assembly might well consider the encouragement and co-ordination of such activity. Attention must be drawn to the growing number of African students in India, North America and Egypt.

Though the first work of the intellectual apostolate in Africa must be the dissemination of information by means of the Newsletter, its work cannot stop there. Individual societies must act on the inspiration afforded by this fraternal exchange of information and ideas. Where possible personal contact between federations and societies should be made. In the future there is the possibility of a Seminar on the lines of the Asian Seminar. In particular the commission urges the General Secretariat and the individual federations to make every effort to ensure a larger representation from Africa at next year's Interfederal Assembly. Where federations or societies cannot be represented they should present a full report, so that effective use can be made of the opportunity afforded by the Interfederal Assembly.



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### UGANDA

#### University College of East Africa, Makerere College (Kampala)

With a student population of nearly 600, the University College of East Africa is inter-territorial, covering Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya. An account of the work of the Augustine Society was given in the previous issue of the African Newsletter.

Since then the Rev. Fr. Carney has left Makerere, and is therefore no longer chaplain: it is expected that a new chaplain will be appointed soon. The Society sent a delegate, Denis Munderi, to the Interfederal Assembly of Pax Romana at Flueli, in Switzerland, which was held during August 1954, and took part in the work of the special commission that was set up there to study Africa (see page 2). Mr. Munderi was also able to profit from the occasion to undertake a short study tour in Europe, visiting France and Italy, and attending the Summer School of the Union of Catholic Students of Great Britain. In April 1955 the Society was visited by Hugh Buckley (Canadian Federation of Newman Clubs), a member of the Directing Committee of Pax Romana.

Address:-

The Hon. Secretary, Augustine Society, Makerere University College,  
P.O. Box 262, Kampala, Uganda.

#### Engineering School (Kampala)

Before 1942 Makerere College provided an engineering course for training engineering assistants, but owing to the shortage of staff and equipment during the war, the education authorities decided to suspend the course. The Public Works Department, realising the urgent need for engineering assistants in East Africa, offered to reopen the School in 1946 at Entebbe, and in 1950 the School was moved to its present site at Kampala. The course lasts five years, two of which are entirely devoted to practical training outside the School itself. The School is inter-territorial, and students come from Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Kenya and Uganda.

The St. Ferdinand's Catholic Students' Society was formed on student initiative in 1952. The Society has not yet either a chapel or a chaplain, though it is attempting to remedy both these deficiencies. It is extremely active in the life of the School, and now feels that its apostolic work is incomplete unless it can participate in national and international activities. The leaders of the Society have already entered into contact with the leaders of the Augustine Society at Makerere College with the idea of forming a national federation of Catholic students in East Africa, which would affiliate to Pax Romana. Last year's secretary writes as follows:-

It may be interesting to record here that one of our major reasons in wishing to join Pax Romana is to stimulate the spirit of leadership among our Catholic intelligentsia and make them realise the prerequisite need of training for this, while realising the great and urgent need for Catholic leaders in both civic and political spheres. The Catholic students form 40% of the total number of students



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in the School, and it is interesting to note that they play a big part in leadership in various student activities; as an example, the management committee of the Students' Club, one of the biggest and most renowned clubs in and around Kampala, has six seats, three of which are occupied by Catholics.

- Francis Nderitu

Officers:-

President ... Frederick Rutakyamirwa  
Secretary ... Mr. Kizito

Address:-

St. Ferdinand's Society. Engineering School, Box 1337, Kampala, Uganda.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

Institut des Hautes Etudes (Dakar, Senegal)

The College dates from 1950, and is under the direction of the Director General of Public Instruction in French West Africa, who is in turn assisted by a Council. It is attached to the Universities of Paris and Bordeaux, who arrange the courses of study, standards of examination and the awarding of degrees. The number of students is 358, including 133 Europeans.

At the College there is a special Catholic Action group which works with other Catholic Action groups for youth in the Dakar area, all the groups together forming the Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique de Dakar. An example of the work accomplished by the J.E.C. of Dakar is the one day study meeting that was organised in January for College and high school students. The day started with a community mass, which was followed by two talks given by members of the university section of the JEC. Bertin Borna spoke on "Politics and Society", and emphasised the Church's role in a developing society; he then briefly reviewed the various ideological systems which pervade the world today. Adama Outtara spoke on "The Role of the Catholic Church in African Civilisation". He reviewed the historical development of the Church in Africa, and emphasised the importance of the role played by the missionaries in the country. This led him to make the point that in the exercise of their apostolate missionaries must display a basic flexibility of spirit, and take into account the 'mystique' of Africa and existing African institutions. These two lectures were followed by study commissions covering Church and State, the Church and the Social Question, the Lay Apostolate and similar questions.

Officers:-

President (university section) ... Adama Outtara  
Secretary (university section) ... Stanislas Yedomon  
Chaplain (all sections) ..... Rev. Fr. Reymondon

Address:-

Cité Universitaire de Fann, Dakar, Sénégal.





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### BELGIAN CONGO

#### Louvanium University (Kimuenza, Leopoldville)

The University has only been in existence since October 1954, and the 32 students are still in their first academic year. The developments being planned for the future are ambitious in size and scope, and faculties of natural science, social science, education and agricultural economics are now in existence.

One of the students, Stéphane Tchaly, is being sent as a delegate to the World Congress of Pax Romana at Nottingham University, England, in August 1955.

### NIGERIA

#### University College (Ibadan)

The University was first started in 1948, and now occupies magnificent new permanent buildings near Ibadan. In 'special relationship' with the University of London, all degrees are London degrees. There are faculties of agriculture, arts, science and medicine, though clinical training has to be completed overseas. There are at the moment some 480 students.

There are 85 Catholic students and a Catholic chaplain, Rev. Fr. A. Foley, but apparently no Catholic student society.

## Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

### GOLD COAST

#### Kumasi College of Technology (Kumasi)

This institution developed out of a teachers' training college, and was only established as a college of technology in 1952. While there is still a teachers' training department, other courses are being rapidly developed, and include music, physical training, ceramic arts, mechanical engineering and pharmacy. Approximately 30% of the teaching staff are Africans.

The total student population, including women students, is 491, all of whom are residential. Numbers are expected to increase as the development of the permanent site takes place. The Aquinas Society is as old as the college itself, and is gaining strength every term, as the following account shows.

The Society came into being immediately the College was opened in January 1952, with only a handful of students as its members. Its aims have been the same throughout - the promotion of Catholic action spiritually and bodily among the laity and the fostering of Catholic ideas among our fellow students who are Protestants.

On the spiritual side, organised visits to the Buoho Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima are paid every term: films, for example of the Life of Christ, the Family Rosary, and the Marian Year in Rome, are screened by a private owner and operator from the town, a Catholic.



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Both Catholics and Protestants mix together for these shows, and for debates and lectures with a religious background (such as the honour given to the Blessed Virgin, reasons for celebrating the Marian Year, God's laws and man's laws, the Church's attitude towards Birth Control, etc.). These lectures are given by senior members of the staff who are Catholics, by invited visitors (sometimes from America), and by members of the African clergy. The Bishop of Kumasi, Ashanti, is also invited at different times to give talks on the need for African priests and the importance of the Catholic way of life.

The social side of the Society comprises social evenings of different kinds, and these assist in keeping together members who are both leaving and joining the Society. In order to keep in touch with the outside world our chaplain Rev. Fr. Vincent Staebel SVD, who is a lecturer in Rural Science, arranges a supply of American Catholic newspapers for the members to read. Certain Catholic periodicals from abroad and issues of our own Gold Coast Catholic newspaper are also read by the members, both Catholic and Protestant, as the Society is open to all students resident in the College.

Because of the growing membership of the Society (its present numerical strength is about 50), group discussions are held on certain controversial topics, such as the Church and Science, the celibacy of the clergy etc.

The activities of the Society among the local community, that is the student body, have contributed much to the feeling of the presence of the Catholic Church, otherwise unnoticeable in an overwhelming majority of students from other denominations.

We pray that the work of the Catholic Lay Apostolate now lying on our shoulders may be promoted with courage and zeal, and that the light which was kindled by a handful of students in January 1952, on this soil of Ashanti, may never be extinguished, but rather that the torch may blaze in honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ for ever.

- Francis Anthony Quagraine

Officers of the Aquinas Society, Kumasi College of Technology:-

Secretary ... Francis Anthony Quagraine

Chaplain ... Rev. Fr. Vincent Staebel S.V.D.

### University College of the Gold Coast (Achimota)

The University College was founded in October 1948 and is in "special relationship" with the University of London, one facet of which is that those graduating receive University of London degrees. Permanent development is now taking place on a new site. The total number of students is 471, including 27 girls.

The Aquinas Society has been in existence for seven years now, and an account of its aims and work was given in the last issue of the African Newsletter by Edward Ulzen, who is now retiring as President of the Society as he takes his final examination this year. Elections for new officers are being held: meanwhile contact may be maintained through the Chaplain, Rev. Fr. J. Koster S.V.D.



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### SOUTH AFRICA

The National Catholic Federation of Students of South Africa has member societies at most of the South African universities. The activities of the member societies are many and varied, and at the national level the Federation organises an annual Conference (which in 1955 will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand during July) and leadership training courses, and publishes a Journal, which contains articles of a very high standard as well as information about the Federation's activities.

Officers:-

President ... Ian Hughes, 015 Albany Court, Kapteijn St., Hillbrow, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
Chaplain ... Rev. Fr. J.P. Fitzgerald OMI, Oblate Scholasticate, P.o. Cedara, Natal, South Africa.

### SIERRA LEONE

#### Fourah Bay College (Freetown)

Fourah Bay College was first founded in 1827 by the Church Missionary Society, and was then intended primarily as a Protestant theological college. It became affiliated to the University of Durham (England) in 1876, and has since then provided courses leading to Durham degrees. Since 1949 the College has come under the auspices of the British Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Colonial Colleges of Arts, Sciences and Technology, and in 1950 was reorganised under the government of a Council consisting of members of the government, missions, teaching and administrative staff. It now receives financial support from the Government of Sierra Leone.

The college is divided into a University and a Teacher Training Department. The former is comprised of students of university level, and is a college of Durham University, whose degrees the students can obtain.

The total number of students at the college, including teacher training, is 357, of whom 93 are girls. A large number of the students come from outside Sierra Leone itself, especially from Nigeria, and this international tradition dates back to the days when it was West Africa's only college.

In spite of the long traditions at the college, a coherent Catholic community did not come into existence until 14th March 1954, when the Catholic Newman Society was formed under the guidance of Mr. J.C. Roche, Senior Lecturer in Commerce at the College. In the short period of time since its formation the Catholic Newman Society has gone from strength to strength. In addition to the publication of Our Bulletin (see page 10), the programme planned for the third term of this academic year includes a study group, in which discussion will take place on teaching problems in Catholic schools and the problems of the Catholic teacher, a lecture on the object and scope of the Newman Society, and a debate on the subject "That Christianity has been of great value to Mankind". In addition there will be discussions on the following subjects:-

- Africanisation or self-help in the Catholic Church in West Africa.  
Untapped resources.
- Catholic attitudes in industrial relations.
- Prospects of Catholic co-operative movements.
- Communism and the African.



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Here are two descriptions of the work of the Society.

The society is a Christian machinery intended to bring all Catholic students at Fourah Bay College together, induce them to follow the steps of Cardinal Newman as undergraduates, and to enable them to participate fully in the Catholic students' international organisation - a source of mutual understanding and education.

Before this Society came into being, Catholics on this campus were living as individuals and not as a unit. Their identity and influence were never known and felt. The Society brought us together. We got to know ourselves more intimately, and became bretheren and friends, We started to act as a body and live as one. And now the emerged oneness has become a reality and our impact on the academic, social and cultural life of the College will, in the not too distant future, be a force to be reckoned with.

Because we were not many we had only a few officers who worked under a great financial handicap. We appointed a secretary who had not stationery, a treasurer without a penny to keep in the purse, a librarian with no books for his shelf (if any shelf he had). But we were optimistic and hoped that some day God would provide 'food' for His children. Not in vain! With hard work and prayer and - not the least - great enthusiasm, I am happy now to say, and proudly too, that God heard our prayer. The 'food' was indeed sent. It started with an anonymous donation of £ 5 (an Irish currency note) from, perhaps, a 'humanitarian Christian' Irishman. Books and stationery streamedin from all parts of the world - to name a few - Australia, Canada, Ireland, England, and Switzerland. All this happened in a short space of time. Wonderful! It would not be an exaggeration to say that at the rate at which books flow in for our young Society from all parts of the world, we shall soon be competing with the College library.

- Robert Odinkemelu

As a young Society we do realise our shortcomings: we have now launched the hard work of running our own newsletter which will always keep other people informed of our activities. We are anxious to see it circulate to other parts of the world. This year we have formed various committees to carry out different duties, such as organising lectures, study groups and social work. From monthly meetings, we have switched over to fortnightly meetings during which we discuss different topics - religious, educational and social.

- J.O. Iweanoge

Officers:-

President ..... Robert E. Odinkemelu  
Secretary ..... J.O. Iweanoge  
Organising Secretary ... J.C. Roche  
Chaplain ..... Rev. Fr. J. Jackson



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### CATHOLIC STUDENT PUBLICATIONS IN AFRICA

Our Bulletin: published by the Catholic Newman Society, Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and edited by Robert E. Odinkemelu. The first issue (price 3d.) appeared in March 1955, and contained news of the activities and programme of the Catholic Newman Society, as well as articles written by members.

Jeunesse d'Afrique: published by l'Association des Etudiants catholiques de Dakar, and edited by Ambroise Ette, Cité universitaire de Fann, Dakar, Sénégal, French West Africa. This publication is written in French, and the annual subscription is 200 French francs (single issues 25 French francs). The issue appearing in April 1955 contained news of activities organised by the J.E.C. (Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique) in the Dakar area, and an article on "Christianity or Paganism" by Karl Emmanuel.

N.C.F.S. Journal: published by the National Catholic Federation of Students of South Africa, and edited by Colin Gardner, 371 Commercial Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, Union of South Africa. The issue appearing in February 1955 contained news of the federation's activities and articles on "Culture and Cultures", "The future of South African art", "The position of non-Europeans in South Africa", and "The Christian student and the practice of international understanding".

Augustine Newsletter: published by the St. Augustine's Society, Makerere College, P.O. Box 262, Kampala, Uganda. Price 1/-.

### PAX ROMANA PUBLICATIONS

University for Christ: this is a 92 page pamphlet on the university apostolate in action, which gives the aims and activities of Catholic student societies and federations all over the world. Price: 2/- sterling.

The Mission of the University: a 202 page book which contains the conferences given and conclusions reached at the Pax Romana World Congress held in Canada in 1952, as well as the Papal Message to the Congress. Price: 5/- sterling.

Pax Romana Journal: published ten times a year, this is the only international periodical publication for Catholic students and graduates. Annual subscription: 6/- sterling.

The above publications can be obtained from the General Secretariat of Pax Romana-IMCS, 14 rue St. Michel, Fribourg, Switzerland. No money need be sent with the order, as indications of the ways in which payment can be made will be sent when the order is acknowledged.

Christian Social Science: Natural Law: a 32 page pamphlet by Dr. Franz Klüber, of Münster University, in Germany which also includes a valuable bibliography. Can be obtained from the Pax Romana Social Secretariat, Frauenstrasse 3-6, Münster (Westf.), Germany.