

JESUIT CONFERENCE OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (JESAM)

Office of the President
Tel +254-20-3884-528
Tel +254-20-202 5692
Mobile +254-73 251 5469



P O Box 1540
00502 Karen
Nairobi
Kenya

31st July 2013,
Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola

Dear Fathers, Companions and Collaborators in AIDS ministries,

This year JESAM, in partnership with the African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN), decided to create an annual award for excellence in Jesuit AIDS ministry in Africa and Madagascar. The aim of the award is to identify, reward and share best practices among AIDS projects led or supported by Jesuits or collaborators.

Seven applications were submitted for this year's award. The projects presented covered a range of services of HIV/AIDS care and prevention, and all were characterized by commitment, creativity, professionalism and perseverance. It was difficult for the jury to select a winner but in the end a unanimous verdict was reached.

I am pleased to announce the winner of the first JESAM Award for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Ministry in Africa and Madagascar: the **Chikuni Parish Home-Based Care (HBC)** program, entered in the category: *Caring for people with HIV and their families*. We warmly congratulate and thank Fr Kelly Michelo SJ, Director of Chikuni HBC, who for the past few years has worked tirelessly to promote self-reliance among people with HIV and for the program itself.

Congratulations to the Fr Mombe and his team at AJAN for the innovative idea and our heartfelt compliments and gratitude also go to the rest of the participants for their laudable work, which truly exemplifies the vision and values of AJAN. An overview of the projects will be featured in the July-August edition of *AJANews*, the e-newsletter of AJAN.

With all good wishes,

Yours in Christ,

Michael L Lewis SJ