



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 32

September 2013

Ewuaso Kedong - Saikeri - Najile - Enkorika & Empaash Mass Centres

It is now six months since my last Newsletter to you all. A lot has happened in that time. One of the most important events has been the decision of the Bishop to make St. Ann's Kibiko into a parish with Kimuka as one of its outstations. And so you will notice these two places missing from the Mass Centre list at the top of this page.



Bishop John blessed a statue of St. Ann and Our Lady at the beginning of the Mass, a gift of Ewuaso Kedong Christians to the new parish.

On the 28th of July, amid sadness on the one hand, because of having been part of the parish since its founding 9 years ago to the day, and happiness on the other, that Ewuaso had given birth to a new parish for the Diocese, the Bishop came to Kibiko and officially constituted the parish of St. Ann's Kibiko with Fr. Stan Malisa as the new parish priest.



Fr. Stan receives his letter of appointment from the Bishop.

Fr. Stan had been curate in Ewuaso for the last year and 8 months so the people know him well. He will be assisted by Br. Stan Alfuaani.

The ceremony was attended not only by people from St. Ann and Ewuaso Kedong but also by people from neighbouring parishes who wanted to

share in the joy. It was truly a special day and a blessing for the Diocese to be growing during the Year of Faith



I think the joy can be seen on the faces of the people

Prior to this great event I had spent 6 weeks in the USA visiting donors of the parish of Ewuaso Kedong to greet them and report to them on our progress and also to talk in different parishes. I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and enjoyed the 'down time' during my official work. Thanks to everyone there who receives this Newsletter for the welcome and support.



If you will permit me to share this with you and ask for your prayers for the Rosminian priest Fr. Chris Fitzgerald pictured above meeting Pope John Paul II.

On my trip to the USA I realised the great influence a pastor can have in his parish. Fr. Chris and the people of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Seffner, Florida have helped us in Ewuaso Kedong for the last nine years and now Fr. Chris is retired and has been placed in an assisted living home.

Fr. Chris, apart from animating his people to pray and donate to the work being done in Ewuaso Kedong, was a great example to me personally over the last 20 years since I came to know him, of what a priest and Rosminian should and could be.

Despite never having worked in what we would commonly call the 'mission' he is a true missionary. He brought the people of the parish of St. Francis of Assisi from gathering in a shop-front for mass twenty five years ago to the living and praying community it is now.

Whenever I visited him over the last years I came away reinvigorated for my mission by the love and example he showed me and the advice he gave me.

I read recently somewhere that **'the human spirit is the strongest medicine on earth and sometimes all it needs is a little encouragement to pull off a miracle'**. Please pray with me and the people of Ewuaso Kedong that Fr. Chris will receive the 'encouragement' from those around him to continue on his mission as a priest with renewed vigour.

Since returning from the US my time has been very busy, first with the preparations for the handover of Kibiko and Kimuka and since that time with preparations for registering the Kindergarten and Rescue Centre with the government. You cannot imagine the amount of paper work involved and visits by health and education officials among others.

The good news is that Cross Catholic has agreed to help us finish the building of the Rescue Centre by giving us funds in the coming year to build the Kitchen, Dining, multipurpose room and Laundry.

As for the kindergarten, due to the population growth in the area and increased applications for places, many of whom we cannot take, we are hoping that in the coming two years we can raise money to double the number of classrooms and teachers, going from 100 pupils and 3 teachers to 200 pupils and six teachers.

A Special Appeal

With Fr. Chris's retirement we have lost a major donor for our sponsorship of students in secondary level education. As I pointed out in my last Newsletter we have 57 students we are helping. With only 4 graduating this year we are left with 53 young people to find fees for in the coming year.

Because of the above and the increased fees in most schools caused by cost of living increases in the last year the committee and myself met and agreed that we could not take any more new students this year but would try to continue sponsoring the ones we have.

So please remember an average of **500 € / 650 US\$ a year** could sponsor a girl or boy to continue in their education.

Water & Agriculture Project

While there is still more work to be done to complete this project the effects are already been seen in the area.

The people in most areas now have adequate water supply and, almost as important as this, especially as we are in the long dry season, their animals have a guaranteed water supply.



A shepherd boy brings the animals for water

The agricultural part of the project which hopes to bring about greater food security in the area is going very well. The people, who have no history and very little experience in agriculture, have planted vegetables both inside and outside the greenhouses for their own use and for selling in the local markets.



A sample of the produce in one greenhouse



Even the children come to work !!

They are helped in this work by an agronomist whom we employ for the first year to travel to each place and educate and help them.

Our thanks go to Cross Catholic and Romey and Don in Wisconsin and all the people who have donated to this invaluable work through them. You are not only changing but saving lives.

What remains is for me to thank all of you for your continued support through prayers and donations.

Thanks a million also to all those who welcomed and accommodated me during my visit to the USA.

You continue to be remembered in our weekly mass here in Ewuaso Kedong each Saturday for our benefactors.

May God bless you all and please continue to pray for us as we prepare to celebrate next July the 10th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

As always donations are needed and can be sent in the usual way. If you have any queries at all please do not to hesitate to contact me at the address at the bottom of page 1.

Donations marked for Ewuaso can be sent to:

**Fr. Patrick Pierce i.c.,
Rosminian House of Prayer,
Glencomeragh, Kilsheelan,
Co. Tipperary,
Ireland.
Tel: +353 52 33181**

Fr. Paddy also operates a bank account for the parish and donations can be made directly to that...

**AIB Bank, 65/67 O'Connell St.,
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
A/c Name IPIC Ewuaso
Account
A/c No. 40016297
Sorting Code: 93 53 79**

For the USA

As Fr. Christopher Fitzgerald is no longer available donations should not be sent to him. If anyone wishes to make a US\$ donation they can still do so directly to the parish dollar account. If I have not given the details already you can email me for them.