



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 34

March 2014

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

Happy 2014 to all of you.

May it be a year of many blessings.

After the last edition of this Newsletter was sent in December I had to travel to Ireland. I went home to visit my mother, Jean, as she had been admitted to hospital with pancreatic cancer. I spent a week in Dublin and had a lot of opportunities to be with and chat with her. Eventually we said our goodbyes and I returned to Kenya to prepare for the celebration of Christmas in the parish. I had the intention of returning in January to spend more time with her, however that was not to be as she took a turn for the worse as I was arriving back in Kenya.

I booked a flight back, a difficult thing to do in December to or from Kenya as it is high season for tourists. I was not lucky enough to see her alive again as she died about 36 hours before I arrived in Dublin. I thank God and am glad for the time we had spent together the week before.

While the death of a loved one is never easy to take, all the family really agreed that it was a blessing that Jean did not have to suffer too long with what is a very painful illness.

We had the opportunity to thank God for her life with so many of her friends and parishioners of Marino parish where she had lived nearly all of her life.

I am sure she is resting in peace now together with my father whom she sorely missed these last months and longed to be reunited with.

Thanks to all those who offered condolences to us and prayers for her soul.

Sorry to the people I was unable to contact but as you can imagine it was a period of intense activity.

I returned to the parish after the funeral on the afternoon of the 24th of December in time to begin the celebrations of Christmas. The priests

from the Rosminian House of Formation were a big help to me as they attended to one of the Christmas masses on the 24th.

The people of Ewuaso were very understanding and supportive to me during this time and I was happy to be able to celebrate the Christmas Eucharist with them and also our usual Christmas meal after the Mass.



A section of the congregation at Christmas Day mass

The people had prepared everything in my absence and thanks to the kindness of Sr. Camillus the children were able to have their usual Christmas party.



Young and old enjoy the Christmas meal

We had baptisms of 7 new born children on Christmas day and this led us to have an even greater special feeling on the day.

Friday July 25th

10TH

ANNIVERSARY

OF FOUNDING

OF PARISH

All welcome

to

Ewuaso

on that day

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Education

Nelson Mandela said: *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*

One of the biggest barriers to ending poverty in Africa is the lack of education. Many children are unable to go to school in most parts of Kenya, because their parents cannot afford the fees. Unlike many countries in the West, secondary school in Kenya is not free. To continue on past 8th grade, a high school student has to pay at least \$600 per year or more, this in a country where the majority of families have to survive on less than three dollars a day.

We have been able to provide scholarships to poor and orphaned children for a number of years now, all who have been accepted to high school but their families lack fees.

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This year because of the division of the parish into two we lost one of our biggest donors, the people of Kibiko, who had supplied one quarter of the amount needed. Also because of increased cost of fees we were really worried about being able to continue with this project. However God is good and when one door closes another opens, this time in the form of the James Loretta Colotto Foundation who gave a very generous donation towards the scholarships of this year. We thank God for them and for the others who continue to support us in this invaluable work.

Water and Agriculture Project

which has been going on for the last two year has been completed as of the 31st December of 2013. We thank God for the help received to bring adequate water supply and greenhouses for growing vegetables to so many people within a 40 kilometer radius of the parish center.

As always work never finishes and as we went about the work over the last two years we discovered many other areas needy for water and we hope to be able to do something for the people of these areas in the future.

Parish House

Work on this has stopped for the moment due to lack of adequate funds. We continue to pray and are sure the Lord will come through for us as He always does.



The picture shows how far we have got. Still remaining is flooring, painting electrical, plumbing and eventually furnishing.

Rescue Centre kitchen

We completed the kitchen part of the building in the Rescue Centre in time for Christmas. The girls and staff were delighted as they can now prepare their meals without the extreme heat which they experienced in the galvanised building they were using.

The work on the dining, laundry and recreational area continues.



happy with the new kitchen

New Fr. General Visits

Don Vito Nardin, the new Superior General of the Institute of Charity (Rosminians), visited Africa and also Ewuaso for the first time in February.

In the parish he visited the kindergarten



Don Vito prays with our children and the Rescue Centre



Don Vito and some of the rescue girls

and also had a meeting with a group of parishioners.



Don Vito addressed by parishioners



Traditional garb and baton of office

In the next edition I will tell you how the parishioners of St Rose of Lima parish in New Jersey, USA have been offering their Lenten sacrifices for the good of disadvantaged and handicapped children in Ewuaso Kedong.

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/US\$

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.