



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 36

December 2016

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

As we approach the Christmas season, when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and for many people a special time to be together as family, I felt it was time again to send greetings and news from Ewuaso Kedong.

This year I completed 12 years working in the parish of Yesu Empiris E Nkai, (Jesus, Grace of God) and the time has passed quickly. In August 2004 I never imagined that the Lord would allow me such amount of time to work in one area of His vineyard.

The regular Newsletters that I used to send to family, friends and benefactors four times a year disappeared two years back. I stopped writing not because there was nothing going on but more so because there was so much going on that there was not time (or to be honest the energy) to continue. I hope with this edition to begin the regular communication with you all.

In the following columns I will try to give you an idea of some of what has been happening over the last couple of years since edition no. 35

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Over the years since 2004 so many people have been involved in the building of the parish through their prayers and donations. The work we have been able to do has been amazing and God has always blessed us as we struggled to discern and follow what He, and where He, wanted us to go. It is impossible to name all those who have been involved, not because we have forgotten them, but because they are too numerous. You know who you are yourselves and you should be rightly proud of the change that you have been able to participate in.

As well as many individuals we have also been blessed with the help of different parishes over the last 12 years. Some of these were St. Vincent de Paul, my former home parish, St. Rose of Lima, Queen of Peace in New Jersey before their pastor was transferred and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Seffner, Florida until their pastor retired. The people of those parishes are still remembered in our prayers each week

for the amazing contribution they made to the growth of the faith in this parish. More recently the parishes of Holy Family in Florham Park, New Jersey and the combined parishes of Holy Family, St. Mary and St. Anthony in Wisconsin and their pastors have become not only friends to me but partners with our parish in so many vibrant and life giving ways through their prayerful and financial support.

As anyone who has visited the parish will agree, our roads are not kind to vehicles and the Toyota Pick-up that had served me well for 11 years was on its last legs and costing a bomb to maintain. With the high cost of vehicles here in Kenya I could never have hoped to buy a new vehicle, but God provided, thanks to my family, and in 2015 I was able to buy a new car to replace it.



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As I had shared in the last Newsletter the population of Ewuaso Kedong is increasing and the demand for places in **our Kindergarten school** has more than doubled which led us to build new classrooms. In the coming year we will have over 170 pupils and in 2018 will reach 200. On the 16th of September this year we officially opened the three new classrooms and toilet block, which were built with funding from Cross Catholic Outreach.



The teachers & pupils on the day of blessing

Fr. Enhart Mpete, Provincial of the Rosminians in East Africa came to be with us and bless the new buildings.

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Our efforts to uplift the community through **education** continued this year with our ongoing support of the neighboring primary school, paying high school fees for 32 children and 3 young people supported in university.



Some of those we support with members of the selection committee

All this was with the help of the Colotto Foundation and other individuals.

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Our **Rescue Centre** for girls who are in danger of FGM or early marriage continued its work not only in giving safe harbor to girls but also through its outreach in the community making changes to the lives of some many and bringing about reconciliation for 10 girls and their families.



The girls and nuns who care for them

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November of 2015 was a remarkable month for Kenya as it marked, not only, the beginning of the **Year of Mercy** but also the **visit of Pope Francis** to the country.



Many of the parishioners travelled to Nairobi for the Papal Mass and our youth also had the opportunity to attend the meeting of the Pope with Youth in Kasarani Stadium the following day.

Two of our youth, Mercy Akeyia Ntai and Paul Lasiti Sapati, were chosen for the special honor of presenting gifts to Pope Francis. This was also a very special honor for the parish.



Mercy & Paul with Pope Francis

The Year of Mercy was a time of a real grace for the parish as we had weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and many people came back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Baptising old and young during the Holy Year

We also had almost 80 candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation two weeks before the end of the Holy Year.

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The parish council in their desire to have a **parish church** began fundraising in 2015 for this end. The site was chosen within the compound at Ewuaso Kedong, designs were prepared and the work began by targeting many people to invite to the fundraiser. To their enormous credit they raised the equivalent of 23,000 US\$ towards the building.



Blessing of the Foundations

In early 2016 we began the building by putting in the foundations. The work of fundraising will continue in 2017 with another fundraiser planned for March.

Rome wasn't built in a day but the journey to finally have a parish church has begun. More updates will follow.

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Farming in Saikeri

Thanks to the parishes of Holy Family, St. Mary and St. Anthony in Wisconsin the people of Saikeri have been able to begin modern farming. So far 11 families have been helped with water tanks, seeds and other equipment for drip irrigation at their homes. We are targeting 25 families in this first phase.



After a visit of the pastor and representatives of the parishes to Saikeri earlier this year the two have formed a partnership of faith and prayer.

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While we have experienced a drought in most parts of Kenya for the last 6 months it looks like it's going to be a good year for mangos

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For me as a Rosminian one of the ways I am sure that I am fulfilling the Will of God is seeing that we continue to receive His blessings in so many ways. The parish and those within it continue to grow in number and in faith. The road is not always smooth nor easy, but then the Lord did not promise us that it would be, just that He would be with us as we journey. I thank all of you who are reading this, and those who have already gone to their heavenly reward, who have had a hand in the growth of this family of God in Ewuaso Kedong and ask for your continued prayer and support in the coming year.

I wish you all a very happy Advent in preparation for the coming of Saviour, and **a very happy Christmas.**

You continue to be remembered in our **weekly mass for benefactors** each Saturday.

May God bless and protect you all

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As always donations are needed to continue the work of the Church here in Ewuaso.

Donations marked for Ewuaso can be sent to: Fr. Patrick Pierce I.C., Doire na hAbhann, Tickincor, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Or lodged directly in the account for the parish: 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\$

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.

If you have any queries at all please do not to hesitate to contact me at the address at the bottom of page 1.