



# Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 39 DECEMBER 2017

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

We are fast approaching the celebration of my favourite feast of the year, **CHRISTMAS** Where has the time gone, I ask myself and yet the year has been full of blessings and so much activity. Let's hope the coming year will be as blessed.

The only thing I would change in the coming year is if the rains could come to our little corner of the world. Easter 2016 is the last time the rains fell here and, as I write, with the extreme heat and dust storms, it is not looking like the rain will fall again until the next season of rain in March or April.

The only help we can give together with our prayers to the people suffering is to continue the distribution of relief food to the most needy. We will be having the Christmas distribution on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December for 531 families.



Food ready for distribution



Some of the people who came for the last distribution

There are many more families in need but we have reached the limit of our

resources and hope the government can do its' bit for the others.

## Weddings

This year we had two wedding in the Church in Ewuaso Kedong. A rare but truly wonderful experience. We continue to hope that more young couples will solemnise their weddings in the Church.



Bernard & Mercy celebrate



Benjamin & Joyce celebrate

## Catholic Youth Meeting

This year thousands of Catholic youth from all over Kenya meet at the stadium in Machakos Diocese to celebrate two years since the visit of Pope Francis.

A group of the youth from our parish were chosen to accompany the Archbishop in their traditional dress. They really enjoyed the whole experience and their special time with the Archbishop.

One of them, Paul Sapati, (on the right in the photo below) who has just graduated from University, had the honour of also meeting Pope Francis during his visit.



The youth share a light moment with the Archbishop

## PMC mass with Bishop

This year the Diocese celebrated the Year of the Child and in the Cathedral in Ngong Town on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 40 children from Ewuaso Kedong joined children from all over the Diocese for the closing mass with the Bishop. The Cathedral was full to overflowing.



The children sang and danced right through the mass and then afterwards in the grounds of the church shared the food they had and

started, what for many, was the long trip home.



## Rescue Centre



Sr. Eliza (right back row) and the girls

In late August the girls in the Rescue Centre had a week long seminar given by Sr. Eliza who used to work in Ewuaso. The aim of the seminar was to continue building the young girls self-esteem and to empower them in the community.



Hanneke teaching Felister how to use the sewing machine

In November a group of women, from Holland and Canada, who had read in a magazine about the Rescue Centre, came to impart different skills to the girls. They stayed with us for a full week, donated two sowing machines and taught 18 girls many

skills. They were amazing women who worked from early morning until late at night and the girls were delighted with all they learned.

The ladies promised to come back again and we look forward to welcoming them.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** we held our annual family day at the Centre when we invite the families of the girl's resident in the Centre to come and visit and celebrate with us. This year nearly all of the parents came and had a great day with their children. It was great to see the girls showing off the skills they had learned to their parents and siblings and singing for them.



Parents, sibilings, staff and Board members at the celebration

## Kindergarten school...

Our kindergarten continues to grow in size and number. From January 2018 we will have 220 pupils, six teachers and a cook and her assistant together with Sr. Pauline as the overseer. This means that since 2015 we have doubled the intake of pupils. Quality education begins early and we are so happy to be able to contribute to that.

## Sponsorship

Our sponsorship of secondary school students continues in the coming year. Already we have received numerous applications as people are so badly affected by the drought that many will not have the money for fees. We will do

what we can and we thank the Colloto Foundation and many individual donors for their ongoing help in this valuable work.



I was caught unawares by this graduate from our sponsorship programme and his father when they came to thank me can give me the gift around my neck

The other programmes and projects we have mentioned in previous editions of this Newsletter continue albeit at a slower pace than we would like. But God gets everything done in his own time and we follow His lead. Hopefully in the next edition we will have updates on everything.

## Visitors

We continued to have visitors and among them in the last number of months was Fr. Michael O'Shea and Fr. Pier Luigi Giroli, Rosminians from Ireland and Italy respectively. Regrettably I have no space for their photos. They were very welcome and we hope that one day they return to visit us again.

**That is really all I have space for now. What remains is to wish you all a very happy Christmas and many blessings in the coming year. You will all be remembered in mass on Christmas Day and over the Christmas period. Please help us by keeping us in your prayers. May God bless and protect you all.**