



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 40 May 2018

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

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NGONG Celebrating the Year of the Youth, 2018



THEME: FAITH ON FIRE, GOD'S CALL, MY RESPONSE
(Mt.5:14-16)

The year is moving fast and almost reaching its half way point and so time for an update from here in Ewuaso Kedong.

The best news of the first half of the year is the coming of the rains after a nearly two year hiatus.

The rains began gently at the beginning of March and grew in intensity during April. They are continuing as I write but lessening in intensity.

I am sure many of you have heard in the International News of loss of life in different parts of Kenya due to floods but we thank God that no one has lost their life in our area, though damage has been done with bridges and roads washed away making travel around the parish extremely difficult and at times impossible.



The crack that has appeared about 10 miles from the parish and featured in News stories that Africa is splitting !!

The upside of all the rain is growth of grass and the many men able to return to Ewuaso area with their cattle from many miles away and rejoin their families.



Fattening our bulls on the new grass

During the Easter holidays a week long seminar and rite of passage was held in the church compound by the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) to educate young people on the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early Forced Marriage (EFM). The girls from our Rescue Centre and catholic youth participated. The seminar was concluded by a march by all the children against FGM and EFM from the church through the town of Ewuaso Kedong.



My journey back to the parish one day

Our tractor has been on call many times to pull cars and trucks out of flash floods and mud.



Grass springs to life with the rain



March against FGM & EFM

Our Bishop has dedicated this year as a Year of Youth. During the launching Bishop Oballa called on the young people *“to see how Christ does things: this will enable them to learn how to discern, to know their own vocation, whether it is marriage or consecrated life or priesthood. Through faith they will be able to know how to make decisions and make wise choices for their lives.”*

He further called on young people to create time within them in order to discern God’s plan for their lives, such as studying the Bible, liturgy, participation in the activities of the Christian community and pilgrimage to the holy places.

During the celebrations the “instruments of evangelization” such as a Holy Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Holy Rosary and a candle ready to be used to accompany young people throughout the year were blessed.



Bishop blessing the instruments of evangelization

The celebration is part of the preparations for the forthcoming XV General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to young people, to be held in October 2018.



Ewuaso Youth at a workshop given By Fr. Jimson, Rosminian

As part of the parish celebration of the Year of Youth we have organized a series of workshops on different subjects during the school and college breaks for the youth of the parish.

With the onset of the rains we completed our distribution of Food Relief to families in March. We are hoping to continue but on a smaller scale to extremely needy families and widows and orphans in June thanks to the ongoing help of Cross Catholic Outreach.

In the area of Saikeri we have been blessed with the ongoing help from the combined parishes of Loyal, In Wisconsin, USA who are helping some people to do small scale vegetable gardening. Most recently with their help we were able to buy a ‘walk behind tractor’ for use in the area.



Learning to plough

James, the most successful recipient has been able not only to feed his family but also to dig a small underground tank and buy a pump to help with irrigation from the profits of his work.



James proudly shows off his new pump.

In Saikeri also we recently received a donation of an acre of land from a catholic woman of Kibiko Parish. God willing this will be where we build our new kindergarten school later in the year.

That is a total of 14 acres donated by local people to the Church in different areas of the parish in the last year.

In the area of education we have been able this year to continue to support the government run primary school in Ewuaso and our sponsorship program for needy children attending high school. This year the total number of beneficiaries is 42. Because of the drought and the consequent loss their animals we many more families had difficulties paying school fees. We give thanks to God and the generosity of the Colotto Foundation and a few other individual small donations.

We had visitors from the USA and Ireland over the last few months. At the beginning of March Rosminian Fathers Joe O’Reilly(my superior), Patrick Pierce and Michael Melican from Ireland.



Fr. Joe addressing pupils in the Kindergarten School.

They were immediately followed by Romey Wagner with his family from Wisconsin.

I thank all those who have helped us in any way and continue to ask for your prayer support. **God bless you all.**