



Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 43

October 2019

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

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NGONG

Celebrating the Year of Mission 2019



THEME: "BAPTIZED AND SENT, THE CHURCH ON A MISSION"
"Let us bring the Gospel to all" (Mt. 28:19-20)

Greetings to you all from Ewuaso Kedong where I returned two weeks ago from Ireland after my first holidays at home since 2017. To be honest I hadn't realized I was as tired as I was but long sleeps, equally long walks and good home cooked food got me back firing on all cylinders.

I took the opportunity also to have health checks and apart from slightly elevated cholesterol, being slightly overweight and the usual warning about the long-term effects of smoking the doctors seemed very happy with the results. 😊

Of course, the only one to be thankful to for my good health is Almighty God who takes better care of me than I do of myself.

My family gave me an amazing celebration for my 60th birthday which occurred during my holidays and we all went away together for a holiday in the sun. That was truly a special week as we not only soaked up the sun and took long walks on the beach but just all, young and old, chilled and got to spend quality time together.



My youngest Nephew in Maasai shuka with his grandad.

In the parish before I left on my holidays the parishioners gave me a great birthday celebration following the Sunday mass with lots of singing, dancing, speeches and gifts. I am truly blessed.



My birthday mass of thanksgiving in Ewuaso I managed to visit quite a number of my fellow Rosminians, friends and family scattered in different areas.

Though I have to admit I didn't get to see everyone I wanted to or to visit all the places I wanted to, I did get to see Sr. Camillus (pictured below) who is retired in London but who worked in the parish for years and is remembered fondly by all.



I also got visit and spend time relaxing with my OLDEST friend Fr. Fred Walters from Limerick who is always a source of strength and encouragement to me.



Family meal in Portugal

One place I was sorry to miss this year was the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, whose feast falls on my birthday, but I have promised Her I'll make up for it in two years time on my next holidays.

I had the opportunity to join together with other Rosminians in Dublin at the beginning of September to celebrate the jubilees of a number of our priests and also a presentation to some of our lay collaborators.



Frs. Tom Griffin & William Stuart with main celebrant Fr. Joseph O'Reilly

I returned to the parish in time for Sunday mass on the 22nd September and then a week of meetings in Ngong with all the priests working in the Diocese together with the Bishop.

The parish was in good hands during my absence with weekly and feast masses being said by the priests of the Rosminian Formation House.

On my return I was greeted by the people of the parish with broad smiles, happy to see me again. The first evening and the following afternoon there were heavy showers of rain which were a sure sign of blessing and the people were sure I had brought the rain with me from Ireland. However the Lord made sure I wasn't going to get too big a head and my welcome was accompanied by 48 hours without electricity, reminding me that I was in the middle of the bush where poles carrying our power regularly fall and especially after rain.

While I was away the Year of Mission continued in the whole of the Diocese with many activities both in the parish and elsewhere helping people remember their baptism call to be missionaries.



Receiving the Symbols of Mission from the neighbouring parish

The Year of Mission will end officially next month but the work of helping the young and old to grow in their faith will continue with the people knowing that I am not the only missionary in the parish, we are ALL 'baptized and sent'.

Speaking of Missionaries, I have been invited to talk to the parishioners in three of our parishes in Florida during the month of November on mission and I look forward to sharing with them. Regrettably, as I was away for holidays so recently, I won't have time to visit others in the USA as my visit is very short.

In May, after the election of new officials at all levels of the parish, we held a two day course for the new members on their duties and responsibilities led by Fr. Boniface Mukwe. (pictured below)



In the month of August Sr. Nelly, who works with the girls in the Rescue Centre and the Rose of Lima Group for disabled children, renewed her vows in the parish. The event was well attended by many Sisters, priests of the Diocese and the people of the parish. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Paul Naikisi who had been Sr. Nelly's parish priest before she joined the congregation of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary.



Sr. Nelly 4th from left standing

Another member of that congregation, Sr. Pauline, who had worked in the parish for almost 10 years was transferred in June. She will surely be missed by all the parishioners for her amazing work among them but especially by all the children, hundreds and possibly thousands whom she knew by name because of her work with them over the years.

In June we welcomed Sr. Winnie from Ethiopia and Sr. Valentine, who was working outside of Kenya but is actually a child of this parish. Her parents still live in Empaash and her father is vice chairman of the parish council.



Sr. Valentine will have the onerous task of helping the Board and staff of the Kindergarten School as they begin the full migration to the new curriculum introduced for all schools in Kenya. This involves changing from a three year program to a two year one, newly named Pre Primary 1 and 2. Already this year we have begun this and have over 140 pupils in Pre Primary 1 between the schools in Ewaso and Saikeri.

That's all for now except to wish you all God's blessing and to continue to ask for your prayerful support
John