

# **Ewuaso oo' Nkidongi Parish Newsletter n. 41**

## **DECEMBER 2018**



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

Greetings to you all from Ewuaso Kedong. As we approach the end of the year of 2018 it's great to get some time to sit at my computer and send some snippets of news to you and greetings for the holy season of

### **CHRISTMAS.**

Recently an elderly nun friend of mine spoke jokingly about how she had made her way through the SEVEN DEADLY SINS. Right now she felt she was stuck on SLOTH. And I feel the same way, especially in the evening time, when I finish my day's work in the parish and there is time for communication through email, WhatsApp etc. I just don't have the energy, maybe it's sloth, maybe age. All I can say is that I should have communicated more with you during the year and for that I hope you understand and forgive me.

Since last writing I had the opportunity for a quick trip to the USA to speak in two Rosminian parishes in Florida and was received fantastically by both priests and people. It was great to be able to share with them the work that the Lord is doing in this parish since its foundation in 2004 and for them to respond so generously.

Below I will give a short account of some of the things we have been able to do for the people because of the generosity of some many individuals and some groups.

### **Saikeri School**

With the very generous donation from an anonymous donor in Wisconsin we were able to begin

building a pre-primary school in Saikeri in September. As I write we are in the final stages of completing the building and will be opening the school on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 for 35 pupils.



Above: In September measuring the ground  
Below: End of November getting there



Just a few days ago with the help of the youth of the parish and the parishioners of Saikeri we spent a day cleaning the compound in preparation for the opening.



Some of the 220 pupils on the last day of school in Baraka Kindergarten, Ewuaso Kedong

The Government has brought major changes in the education system and curriculum beginning this year which means that our 3 year kindergarten program, both in the existing school in Ewuaso Kedong and the new school over

an hour away in Saikeri will now be a 2 year pre-primary course. Our teachers are being updated on the changes.

### **Enkorika**

In this interior area of the parish, where there the people depend on dirty water from dams or carry water for miles for their use at home, we have been able to install a 10,000 liter water tank and have clean water delivered when needed by the people. They pay a minimal cost to cover the expense of delivering the water.



Above: The tank in its own little house

We also completed the fencing of the compound of 10 acres which the people donated a few years ago.



our next task here in Enkorika will be to build the church of St. Michael the Archangel and a catechist's house.

### **Parish Events**

The Year of the Youth was a great success in the Diocese and here in the parish with many events organized to help increase the

faith of the youth. We organized a number of seminars during the year that were very well attended and also our youth accompanied the symbols of evangelization in October from our parish, where they had been for two weeks, to our neighboring Magadi Parish almost 100 kms away. The year ends on the 15<sup>th</sup> December with a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Subukia.

This year history was made in the parish when the first group of women were commissioned on 16<sup>th</sup> September, after a long period of preparation, into the **Catholic Women's Association**



and a number of our young people likewise were accepted by the Bishop on 17<sup>th</sup> November into the **Young Christian Workers** of the Diocese.



YCW commissioning in the Cathedral November was a busy month in which we also had the long awaited **fundraiser for the second phase of building the new parish church**. You will recall that we had the first fundraiser in 2015 and since then because of the drought we had to cancel a number of times. Dignitaries and politicians were invited, some came, some didn't and some sent their donations. The last fundraiser in

2015 raised nearly 23,000 US\$ and with that we were able to put in the foundations. This time, through their hard work and preparations the people were able to raise almost 40,000 US\$. With this we hope to be able to reach roof level and then have a final fundraiser to complete the church in time for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rosminians in East Africa in 2020.



Some of the youth entertaining guests during the fundraiser.

Our **sponsorship of students for high school** continued this year and thanks to the ongoing help of the James and Loretta Colotto Foundation it will continue in 2019.

We had a very successful and rewarding meeting recently with all 42 students including those who graduated this year. Some parents accompanied their children to express their heartfelt gratitude.

Many requests have already come in for the coming year and we are assessing them in these days.

Our helpers in Ballyboy, who have helped us since the early days of the parish in so many ways, noticed donor fatigue a few years ago and decided to take a more radical action to raise funds. With the money they have been able to raise in the last few years they set up a charity, **Tigh Solais**, (House of Light) and bought a rundown house in Birr, County Offaly. They refurbished it with their own money and sweat and now have begun renting it. The object, after they have paid all their debts in a

few years, is that they income will go towards the education of youth in Ewuaso Kedong. Very well done to one and all for your dedication and sacrifice.



I don't have a 'before' photo but this is the 'after'.

The rains seem to be avoiding us this season and so we are planning in January to continue our **food relief program** to a limited number of very needy widows and needy families.

This is not everything but, as St. John says at the end of his Gospel, if I was to record everything, including the sacramental and pastoral visits to far flung areas not covered by roads or even tracks, there wouldn't be enough paper to cover it all.

All that remains for now is to ***wish you all a very happy Christmas and many blessings in the coming year.*** You will be remembered in my masses on Christmas Day and over the Christmas period. Please help us by keeping us in your prayers.

May God bless and protect you all.