



Holy Spirit Delegation Newsletter
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Simanjiro - Osotwa Community

It has been a wonderful time and a learning period for us since we started our community experience here in our Osotwa community. We have gained new insights and witnessed the love and commitment in everything especially in the mission entrusted to our Sisters. With awareness, we were able to differentiate life in our local community and our formation community. It was a challenge to deal with small children due to the language barrier, but we were always given help. The hard work and cooperation of each Sister made us to feel at home in community and put all our efforts to work.



We have also experienced the joy of being with women's groups, teaching them how to write their names and helping them to improve their ways of living. What touched us and challenged us most is how the people have put their trust in God, though they don't have the Eucharistic celebration for long periods of time because their place of worship is not yet completed.

The climax so far has been our "Parents' Day Programme." How happy and privileged we were to have "Parents' Day" at our Notre Dame Osotwa School. The Guest of Honour was Yamai Lshaicah. The programme began at noon with a prayer song led by our children in English, Kiswahili and German, followed by the National Anthem, school song and welcome songs. These welcome songs were in three different languages: English, Kiswahili and "Maa," the Kimaasai language. This helped the Guest of Honour and all the parents to feel at home in our school.

The children had a nice programme for the parents. Each child participated in the programme. It was well done and all the parents were so happy to see their children in the presentations. Some commented that the children were so confident that others were motivated to bring more children to our school next year. Many thanks to Sisters Mary Rashmi, Susan and the teachers for their efforts in teaching and helping the children.

Sister Mary Rashmi read the school report. Hearing the report, the Guest of Honour and some parents responded. The Guest of Honour promised to support our school with some desks and surely we all appreciated his promise of support. May God bless his generosity. The day went on well and the programme ended with a song thanking everyone for their full participation.

We thank the good God for granting us this wonderful and colourful day. We also extend our thanks to our Headteacher, Sister Mary Rashmi together with the school committee for planning and preparing this important day. May God bless all the plans of this school next year as we strive to make it a better place for the children and prepare them for their future life.

By Sister Mary Adelmas, NND and Sister Mary Berita, NND

Gathering of our ND Students

What great joy we had in meeting our own Notre Dame students who graduated from our school in these past four years. About 36 students of our Notre Dame Primary School from 2008-2012 as well as our present Class VII of 2013, gathered in the school hall. The main purpose of the gathering was to start a student association of alumni from our Notre Dame Primary School.

The day began at 11:30 A.M. with prayer lead by Sister Mary Magdalene Mbula Musila who then introduced the Sisters who were present: Sisters Mary Mukti, Neelima, Rashmi, Gladness, Jacinta and our Staff members, Teachers Devota, Benedicta and Gorio. All the Sisters and Staff participated in various groups and helped with discussions, activities and presentations.

Sister Mary Rashmi gave a short introduction of the day sharing how it was Sister Mary Shobana's dream to see that these students come together and form a group which would help them to be united as one family of Notre Dame. The students were then put into three groups in which they were asked to write down their expectations and dreams and present this in some form of skit, song or poem. Each group came forward with a symbolic diagram to express their expectations. One had a tree that expressed their oneness placing prayer at the root and God holding the group firmly together. The branches are the

members who are united by love and reaping fruits of joy. The second group's symbol was a river which branches into tributaries that flow always giving life



The third group had a symbol of a beautiful house expressing the hope that this group will take its own growth that is rooted in love received at home, school and in society and enable them to remain united and always find refuge and shelter.

Sister Mary Mukti gave a talk on health issues and related it to their symbols asking appropriate questions that would draw them into discussions and make them think further about the choices they make in life. Sister Mary Neelima shared about the future plans of the group and the important contribution they make through their membership. They are important to the school, and are needed and wanted. At the conclusion, each agreed to contribute 2,000 for their membership dues.



The day ended well and the students felt this was a very significant day in their life and showed a great deal of interest in continuing with the group and the dreams they have. After a meaningful prayer service, lunch was served and all agreed to meeting on June 28, 2014. What a great beginning!

By Sister Mary Magdalene Mbula Musila, SND

More Good News:

Notre Dame Primary School, Njiro

Hearty Congratulations to our ND Primary School in Njiro. All our Class 7 students passed their National Exam and all received an “A” in English. We are 14th in the district and next year we hope to be among the top 10! Congratulations to Sisters Mary Shobana and Neelima as well as our Sisters and staff for all their hard work.

By Sister Mary Annete, SND

Surprise for our Aloysia Children

“Our dear good God always provides and he will certainly continue to do so.” Our Notre Dame School children in Sister Mary Magdalene Mbula Musila’s catechism class gave a surprise to our Aloysia children. These students had been making sacrifices during Lent to visit another group of children born and brought up in prison, but it never materialized. Sister, with her creativity, gathered the small number of children who could give their contribution. However, when she announced the next day that they would visit our Aloysia children at Zinduka, 84 children came forward with many things provided by their families: food, soup, clothes, books, pens, pencils, etc.

It was really touching to see how God worked for the poor through these little children. As they presented their items they said to the children, “God loves you and we love you too.” Various items collected were given to those present and other things were saved for those not present.



We continue to thank our dear good God who provides for all of us. May God bless all our children for their generous spirit begging for the grace to continue sharing what they can.

By Sister Mary Magdalene Mbula Musila, SND

Notre Dame News – Didia, Shinyanga

This was a memorable day for Sister Mary Pascalina as we celebrated her birthday in grand style on October 12. Fr. Peter Mtunga, the Headmaster of the school was the main celebrant on this occasion and his homily in the morning Eucharistic celebration and all the liturgical hymns were very lively and inspiring. We were grateful that so many of the student boarders could be present.

At 6:00 P.M. all the sisters and our boarding girls attended a special rosary conducted in the school followed by a short colourful program in honour of Sister Mary Pascalina's birthday. Many expressed their gratitude to Sister for all that she is to the young people of Don Bosco Secondary School. The students were then given sweets by Sister Mary Pascalina and they dispersed at 8:00 P.M.

Soon after the school program was over, all the priests and Salesian volunteers moved over to sisters' house and a delicious meal was served to them. The neighbourhood communities of the Salesians, S.M.A. priests and lay S.M.A. volunteers from Bugisi, Parish and Fr. Robert Susairaj M.S.F.S. from Isaka were invited for the supper. At the end of the meal Sr. M. Celine thanked and appreciated Sr. M. Pascalina for her presence and dedicated service rendered to the community, boarding, as well as to the school. May God continue to shower her with his abundant blessings as she continues with her mission here in Didia.

The Biogas Plant:

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Sr. Mary Mukti, Sisters at Didia community and to Fr. Babu Augustine in a special way for his co-operation and contribution at the starting point of digging of the pit exactly the size of the Don Bosco Boarding biogas plant. We've already spent 13 million but the work is not yet complete. All the pipe connections from the biogas place to the kitchen have to be bought. Essential are the eleven toilets to be built by the Salesians next to the biogas tank. We may be able to operate by the end of January 2014.

The new "check dam" at Notre Dame – Didia, Shinyanga

What a joy it is to share with all of you dear sisters that Notre-Dame Didia community is constructing one more new check dam. It is parallel to the new study hall which was built last year by Salesians. The new dam is 30' diameter and its depth is 6'. The previous dam had land slid from all four sides, hence it doesn't contain sufficient water for our boarding girls since the strength of the boarding has gone up to 230. The rain is expected by next month so we wish to harvest that water in our new dam. The work is in progress and we expect that it will be ready before the rainy season.

At present our Notre-Dame girls do not go to fetch water from Don Bosco dam since the water is not usable. The school is providing per head one bucket of clean water but that is not sufficient for washing their clothes and other purposes. In addition to that we have bought 4 poly tanks, each containing 3000 litres of water. Managing these many girls is challenging and the majority of them come from Sukuma tribe. We request your prayerful support and encouragement.

By Sister Mary Celine, SND

Shedrak and Meshak at Zinduka

Shedrak and Meshak are twins we found on the roadside near Zinduka as we were returning from the village visit. Both of them had some kind of metal coils which they may have picked from the garbage bins. They seem to be between 4-5 years old and were dressed in torn and dirty clothing. They had come to one of the shops to sell their day's collection and the money they would use to buy school items and also some sweets. They said they were coming from far so we told them to come the next day so that we can visit their family. We never thought they would return, but early the next morning they reached Zinduka, so we decided to go with them to their home. Their house was about 6-7 kilometers away and we could not believe these children had walked that far.

It was heartbreaking to see a small, dilapidated hut where they live with their grandma. Both parents had left them when they were still small and no one has any idea where they are. The two children welcomed us into a house with no doors and we sat on the broken chairs. They shared with us that grandma goes out for some work and then she feeds them once a day, sometimes twice a day; grandma was not there. They go to a nearby school and in the afternoon, they wander around looking for waste materials so they can sell them and that's how they make their livelihood. While we talked to them, one of them found a cucumber and brought it for us. We were so touched by their hospitality and concern. They couldn't find a knife but said they would get one from their neighbor.

We stayed only a short time with them but encouraged them to come to Zinduka and join the Aloysia children on October 26th. They felt so bad when we had to say good-bye and we also felt bad as we had created a bondedness. Shedrak and Meshak are very lively, smart and friendly children. They were grateful and happy that we visited them and never expected anything from us. We are hoping that



through our efforts and the generosity of many and with the help of God we can give them a brighter future. May God bless them abundantly.

By Sister Mary Satya, SND

And yes, they did come for the Aloysia Children's gathering

Notre Dame Secondary School, Njiro "Three Cheers to All"

Notre Dame always finds reasons to come together to celebrate the gift of life, gift of persons and a positive growth. Every month since July, we had a gathering on both smaller and larger scales. Sister Mary Annete had organized the formees to adopt a student or two from Form II and Form IV to pray for them. The students and staff were so grateful to all our sisters and formees for their valuable support and the spiritual energy that we receive from the Congregation, Provinces, Delegations and Communities. We hold each of you before God with much love and gratitude.

The climax of our big celebration was on 26th October when we gave a farewell to our Form IV students to appreciate their growth in life intellectually, socially, physically, spiritually and psychologically. It was the day set aside to affirm them that they are mature enough to step out of secondary school and join a higher level of education. We also recognized their giftedness in front of their parents, friends, teachers and invited guests.

The first event of the programme was the celebrations of Holy Mass during which Fr. Julius, CMI prayed for them by laying hands on each of them. We prayed for the 29 Form IV candidates (26 girls and 3 boys) and wished God's blessings for their coming National Exam. This was followed by a cultural programme and lunch. We were able to use the new Hall for the function and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the sisters and engineers who pushed the contractor to hand over the new Hall which helped us reduce the cost by not having to hire tents. We were to finish our programme at 3:30 P.M. but we did not even have our lunch until 5:00 P.M. The parents, well wishers and invited guests started leaving the campus from 5:30 onwards and all left by 6:30 P.M.



At any important occasion, we experience the family spirit of Notre Dame by sharing materials, their talents and rendering a helping hand to make the function a wonderful one. When we are united, we witness to the Trinitarian love of God. As I thank each of you my dear sisters far and near, may I humbly request you to continue to pray for our Form IV students who will be starting their exam on 4th November 2013. Form II students completed their national exam and went home on 26th October 2013. We depend on you dear sisters for support and encouragement to continue with the mission you have entrusted to us. ***FINALLY, THREE CHEERS TO EACH OF YOU SISTERS, STAFF, FRIENDS, PARENTS AND WELL WISHERS. "If God is for us, who can be against..."***

We missed you Sister Mary Shobana for the occasion, especially the students, staff, Board members and Committee members of Notre Dame School. Lots of love and get well wishes from all, especially from the Form Four students. Best citizen of the year in our Notre Dame Secondary School is Miss Naomi Wilfred who says, "All things are possible with God" and so, we hope to see you Sister Mary Shobana in 2014 when we come for our academic certificate."

By Sister Mary Shaija, SND

Syokimau Community - Our newest Candidates

On October 5th, every aspirant in our little community wore a big smile as we began our spiritual preparation for receiving our Candidate medal. The preparation began with the Rosary, calling upon our Mother Mary to help us and intercede for us and grant us fidelity of heart. This was followed by a spiritual talk by a priest who encouraged us by his words to have a tremendous faith in Christ, a faith that is the most powerful instrument in our lives. Father also encouraged us to create peace in our minds and hearts so that we can live according to God's will. His message included a reminder that for us to succeed in our prayer life we have to formulate and stamp indelibly in our heart and mind, mental pictures that will help us become true disciples of Christ. Sister Mary Mukti met with us individually and we had another day of prayer. Our dear sisters made the days so colourful

and gave us time to spend graced moments with Jesus and so we came to a deeper understanding of the meaning of silence and solitude so necessary for our lives. The talk by Sister Mary Mukti also inspired us. That evening, before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, we received our Candidate medals and surely we felt the presence of Jesus within us and among us.



We are so grateful to Sister Mary Prerna for all the help and support she has given us as our Formator. Her classes, individual sessions and all the ways she gives herself to us is so much appreciated. God Bless you dear Sister Mary Prerna. The day ended with a gathering for supper of our community and the Mt. Sinai Community. We are so grateful to the whole Congregation for journeying with us up to this day and we thank God for calling us to Notre Dame.

By Judith Kagashe, CND

KIOMBOI AT A GLANCE!!!

It has been a busy time for all of us here trying to make our little ones come out of themselves and this is seen in them the way they confidently express themselves. They have become friendly to all who come to our compound. They actually don't mind the mistakes they make as they struggle to learn English. Each day we teach them some sentences in English

and how to respond, but interestingly the following day when we ask, we just get the opposite! Here is a sample of the "How was the day?"

"Thank you, same to you" comes the response. We just smile to ourselves and know that it really is a good beginning!



We were blessed with a visit from our two friends from Germany, Mr. Ernst and Mr. Norbert from Dialog Projekt.

Since we are preparing for our sports day, they were lucky to have a glimpse of some of the items as their welcome programme.

Oh! At last we can sit and relax a bit since now we have completed the registration of our school. Like the widow in the Bible, we never got tired of making endless trips to the different offices. Many times we were turned back but never gave up and that is why we enjoy the fruits of our patience and determination. We wish all the best to our new mission in Simanjoro as we all look forward to the registration of our school there. Hope they will always meet good and kind people to help out.



In case you have not seen our Kiomboi School and Aloysia Home, here are a few photos. The picture to the left is our school building now completed,

and our hall which is also completed.



These are two cottages of our Aloysia Home with a kitchen between the two cottages.

Our children are enjoying being in the big new classrooms. The construction is over and the engineer is gone together with his workers. We thank God for this great accomplishment and we acknowledge your valuable prayers and support that has helped us in many ways.

We come to the close of the year with a total of 64 children. We are now preparing for the coming year and we have already given admission to more than 20 children for next year and more are still coming.

By Sister Mary Magdalene Mukonyo and Sister Mary Christine, SND

Mt. Sinai Community – National Examination

In our spacious dining hall this year, we accommodated all our 107 candidates preparing for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E) exam.



The exam supervisor arrived on Nov 11th for the sitting rehearsal. She made sure that all the desks were marked ready for the following day of their final exam. On the eve of the exam, we gathered with the pupils for prayer.

Some expressed that they were afraid of the exam. We encouraged and prayed over them. Those who were still not confident were brought to the convent chapel and spent some time before the Blessed Sacrament.

The three day exam began on Nov 12th and the supervisor, four invigilators and a security officer arrived on time with the exam papers. The candidates took their places in the exam room. All looked ready to conquer their first national exam. Sr. Shobha was present and she did all the necessary procedures before she left that afternoon for Rome. Teacher Geoffrey, our Deputy Headteacher would act on behalf of Sister in her absence during the exam days. The pupils will sit for five papers in three days. These include Mathematics, English, Kiswahili, Science, Social Studies and C.R.E. The languages have “paper two” that is Composition and Insha. The exam ran smoothly and those invigilating the exam were taken up by the perfect discipline of our pupils during the exam.

During the exam days, the pupils were well fed with the best menu ever. They even had four o'clock tea and ample time to refresh themselves in the evenings. After the final paper they took time to clear up and pack their belongings. This was a co-operative group and all were ready within a short time. They all smiled as they bid goodbye to us and left with their parents and guardians after 2.00 P.M. Thanks to all our teachers for preparing our pupils so well. We look forward for a good result on December 28th this year.

By Sister Mary Elizabeth, SND

Sincere Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to all of you dear Sisters, for your prayerful support and love during this difficult time of the passing away of my sister, and for praying for a stable health condition for my brother to set his broken bones in place. He had a successful surgery after 15 days since his fall where he dislocated his hips and multiple fractures. The doctors were unwilling put him under anesthesia as he had too many other complications which needed stabilizing before they could operate on him. Thank you for all your prayers that he was in a stable condition to be operated on today, and the doctors are hopeful for his complete recovery. Please continue to pray for his healing and well being. I thank all of you for your prayerful support along with all my family members. Now I can think of going to Rome for the Formation Conference. Praying for you all with much love and gratitude.

By Sister Mary Shobha, SND

Formation Conference in Rome



We continually pray for God's guidance on the Formators' Conference in Rome. Here are our sisters representing our African Formation Programme from Uganda, Sister Mary Colette; from Mozambique, Sister Mary Irene and from Tanzania/Kenya, Sisters Mary Prerna, Shobha and Jyosita. May God bless all their efforts and plans and we so look forward to hearing from you when you return.

Sister Formators from around the SND World have gathered at the Motherhouse to attend the International Formation Conference beginning on November 15 until December 15. The thirty five participants are from the following thirteen countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, South Korea, Vietnam, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Brazil and the United States. The participants are sisters helping to form new members in the spirit and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. They will spend the month receiving input, sharing ideas, and participating in a Spirituality Renewal Program. Their time in Rome will include an audience with Pope Francis, a trip to Assisi, and a few free days to take in some of Rome. The experience will conclude with a week-long retreat. Please keep those involved in the Conference in prayer.

And so dear sisters, we bring this newsletter to a close.

May this coming Advent season, be one full of joy and anticipation of the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May all the prayers, sacrifices and personal and communal prayers bring much fruit to our life together. As we approach the Christmas season, know that each of you is held in prayer.

We look forward to seeing you in our next edition of "From the Roof of Africa" in the New Year of 2014.



A Blessed Advent



A Merry Christmas



And A Happy New Year!