



HABARI - NEWS

NAIROBI PRIORY

January - April 2011



### ***From the Prioress' Desk***

The year 2011 began with travel and change. It was time for the once in a term visitation of all the houses of the Nairobi Priory. Endo our furthest station was the first to be visited then Chesongoch, Eldoret, Kimumu and Ruaraka. One thing common to each of the Stations was the wonderful dedication and marvelous missionary spirit of all the Sisters. There is much care and enrichment going on in the schools, health centers and pastoral care activities in all the houses. A great thing to behold.

Change is happening also in all the mission stations such as Kenya power putting electricity into the Endo area and a bore hole. The Chesongoch health center beginning the construction of a one room theater in the health center and setting up a computer classroom to teach especially the women of the area how to use a computer; Kimumu expanding the Kindergarten to the first three grades of primary now that the new school building is finished; The Eldoret community adding the raising of chickens and expanding the production of the small farm to the sewing, guest and retreat work. And Ruaraka preparing to expand the dormitory for the primary school. The Priory house is not to be left out in that the number of patients coming to the dispensary are increasing as are the numbers coming to Subiaco retreat house. We can only thank the Lord for the blessings and care bestowed upon His people through the ministry and work of our sisters.

We wish all our readers a very beautiful and blessed Easter Season.

*Sr. Michael Marie Rottinghaus*

### ***Entrance of the Aspirants***

On 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2011 we received four young women in our community as aspirants. They are: Mary Ndumia and Virginia Nduku for Nairobi Priory and Symphorosa and Stella Kavota (Congolese) for Jinja community. Our prayer is that the Lord will grace each one of them with all the spiritual gifts that they need as they begin their journey in the religious life. We wish them joy, happiness and perseverance as they seek the face of God in our Benedictine way of Life

### ***Retreat – Novitiate Members***

All our 22 novitiate members had their annual retreat from 27<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April. We had all moved to Subiaco - our retreat/ guest house. Our facilitator was Fr. Patrick a diocesan Kenyan priest assisted by a team of two ladies and a gentle man. He reflected with us on different topics: Forgiveness, surrender and cleansing. The days were so baptized with God's presence and I am sure that those who were open to God's graces received much. We pray that all the spiritual treasures that we received during these days of grace will find good soil to grow in as we continue with our search for God in the Benedictine way of life.

Gratitude goes to our prioress, formators and all the sisters who through their sacrifices made it possible for us to have such a rich experience. We cannot forget to thank Sr. Maura, Sr. Valeriana and the entire staff of the retreat house for the good meals and wonderful accommodation. All these helped us to pray. May you be so blessed.

*Post. Lydia*

**Annual Retreat of the Final Professed sisters**

The retreat was from 04<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April and was preached by Fr. Richard David, CSSR with 17 sisters participating. These were grace filled days

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deep with reflections and insights. We started with a reflection on God's love for Looking back our lives to the many

preparations God had made before our coming into the world. He prepared our parents and all that surrounded our birth. Other reflections were on forgiveness, the human face of Jesus where we were to identify with the qualities and struggles that our Lord had as a human person. The inner healing sessions were preceded by a day of fasting and reconciliation with God through the sacrament of confession and with one other through a one on one talk with someone who had either hurt us or we had hurt them in the presence of the blessed sacrament.

On the last evening we had a long holy mass. During the kiss of peace we were to say words of appreciation to all the participants and to give a flower to each. This part took one hour fifteen minutes.

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the insights gained to meaningful and purposeful lives in our daily life in the community and apostolates. **by Sr. Lucy Ndung'u**

**Farm- Karen Community**

It was one Monday afternoon in March this year when Sr. Agnes Aiso the sister in charge of the



convent garden asked the men workers to prepare themselves to receive and unload the China made

tractor promised to us by the brother of Sr. Michael Marie the prioress which was to be delivered to us that afternoon. We were all so much excited that when a few hours later it did arrive, the downloading and assembling the parts of the tractor started and in no time the small sized walking tractor was fixed and ready for work with the help of Evans our driver who had been instructed on how to run it by those who had sold it to us. The tractor has three different sections, a plough, a tiller and a disk, each to be attached to the tractor at different occasions depending on the work to be done.

The following day all the garden workers, Sr. Michael Marie and Sr. Agnes were busy learning how to operate the walking tractor. We had attached to it an old wagon with a seat so it was easy to drive while seated. The learning, which took place at the convent's round about was so exciting filled with laughter and discoveries.

We are so grateful to Sr. Michael Marie's brother and the entire community for this precious gift. It will be very useful in the transportation of many things such as chicken and cow feeds from the store to the livestock area and carrying the manure from the cows shed to the farm. We have also been able to cultivate vast grounds which otherwise would have been done manually.

*by Sr. Tekla Mbevi*

**End of Semester for the postulant**

The January through April semester is the longest in our Dimesse programme. This time we were privileged to have the following courses: Introduction to New Testament, the Creed, Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Religious Pshychology. The short courses were: Family life given by a catholic couple and communication skills. All these equipped us with much knowledge about our faith and how to live in community life. We always count ourselves lucky to have such great opportunities. Besides this, we also have an opportunity of meeting other postulants from different congregations. We are able to interact and share and learn alot. These experiences open our eyes to the challenges others go through in their search for God and His will for them.

The end of the semester also saw our five senior postulants: Sylvia, Esther, Margaret, Consolata and Annah graduate. They have gone through the four semesters beginning September

2009 to April 2011. This has been a very informative and formative experience for each one. We thank the community for this opportunity. We pray and hope that the knowledge gained will help us live integrated lives as we continue in the life long journey of conversion and seeking God's will for us.

*Post. Esther*

### *News from the Outstation*

#### *St. Getrude Kimumu*



The beginning of this year has seen our community count one blessing after another. This academic year we opened our primary school section something that excited not only the teachers but also the parents. In our planning last year we envisaged to have primary 1 and 2 only but the demands of the parents were so pressing on us to have a primary 3 class as well.



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We took up the challenge and started three which has pupils than class 2. total population of school is 126 pupils.

The growth in the school also demanded additional members of staff. Thank God we were able to hire some teachers who have so far proved competent and efficient.

Another blessing that we are counting came to us during the days of priory visitation by our prioress, Sr. Michael Marie. The three days of grace renewed and strengthened us both individually and as a community. The visitation was crowned with an excursion to Lake Victoria. Our sisters from Eldoret community joined us on this day. Though we could not see the water since the lake is covered by Hyacinth weed we however, enjoyed seeing the animals in the park. We thank God for his faithfulness and love. He has constantly been blessing our little efforts with success.

*by Sr. Agatha*

#### *Visitation - Endo Community*

Sister Michael Marie came to Endo on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011 for the visitation. We ate lunch together and the official opening of the visitation was at 8.00 pm the same day. She was with us for

five days listening to the joys and challenges of each member of the community. She was also able to visit the parish priest and all members of staff in the convent and in the health centre. We felt so renewed and reenergized once again to serve our God in gladness by her short visit. After the visitation she left for Chesongoch community. We thank God for this wonderful time. May He bless all that we do in His name.

*By Sr. Paulina*

#### *The Coming and Going in Endo*

Welcome to Endo all who are tired and want to have some days of rest! In the last couple of months we have had several people stay with us shortly and others for a little longer. Our novice Maria Gorreti was with us for 3 months for her formative activity. We appreciate her self giving in the community and in the school. Thank you Novice Maria Gorreti and as a community we wish you all the best in your journey with the Lord.

We also had the joy of hosting the pioneer sisters of this community: Sr. Maria Uhl together with her visitors for a day. A day after, Sr. Heriberta arrived with her nephew and his wife.

On the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Sr. Maria Ko arrived together with Sr. Josephine a Carmelite and Fr. Gabriel a diocesan priest from Korea. Fr Gabriel will stay with us for 3 months. He is so fascinated by everything in Endo. He is ready to learn new things and visit new places. We are happy to have him in our community.

Besides having our sisters visiting our community, we have been hosting the members of staff of "UDAY AND COSULTANTS" a non governmental organization sponsoring water and irrigation projects in Aror and Endo. To them Endo is like heaven because of the security and serenity of the place.

We thank all the sisters who come to visit us down here in the valley. Your presence always gives us joy and a sense of oneness with you all.

*by Sr. Paulina*

#### *Karibu Sana Endo baba Askofu*

All was joy in Endo parish when the Right Reverend bishop Cornelius Korir arrived since his last visit was three years ago. He was an hour early thus everything began as scheduled at 10 am in the morning. At mass the bishop gave a very inspiring

homily encouraging all and especially the newly confirmed to live the gospel values everyday.

After the colorful Holy Mass he blessed the St. Abraham's Academy. Our shepherd was so relaxed and seemed to enjoy every minute of the day. He ate lunch with us and some parish leaders. After the noon meal, the parish leaders took the chance to brief him on the future development plans of the parish. He so much appreciated what the active participation of the parishioners facilitated by peace and stability in the Kerio valley after years of cattle rustling. He encouraged the parishioners to continue fostering peace and to avoid occasions which can spark violence with the neighboring Pokot community. He promised his prayer support for the parish and asked us to keep thinking of him in our prayers.

*by Sr. Paulina*

### ***Electricity is here at Last!***

You can not imagine how excited we were to have electricity in Endo. We have longed for this great gift. Wow! Endo mission is now like a small town, many said. We are sure that the so longed for development will find its way in this part of God's kingdom which for some years before was insecure because of cattle rustling. We thank God for the gift of peace in Endo for this is what has made way for this dream to be realized.

Since not every one in Endo can afford to install the electricity, the Kenya power and lighting company has promised all who have registered a three months use of power without charge. This will serve as a motivation to many others to do all they can and have electricity installed in their homes.

### ***Visit by our Prioress and the Vice German Ambassador***

The German embassy in Kenya is financing the piping of the borehole project which the Kenya government has drilled, fixed the pump and then built a water tower. This borehole will be of great help in our health centre and in the community. We are so grateful and we are now sure of clean water and enough for irrigation purposes. We thank our prioress who has worked so hard to get the German embassy finance the piping.

*by Sr. Paulina*

### ***Chesongoch Theatre Project***

The plans to have the so much needed theatre in Chesongoch have finally been approved by the Japanese embassy that is financing it. In March this year the vice Japanese ambassador together with our prioress drove to the Kerio valley to have the contract signed and other logistics finalised. The chesongoch residents expressed their joy and appreciation to the embassy. Their representative spoke of how difficult it is to have the patients referred to Kapsowar or Eldoret for surgery considering the poor infrastructure.



On this occasion we expressed our solidarity with the people of Japan who had suffered the terrible earthquake and nuclear disaster that claimed thousand lives. We observed a minute of silence in prayer for these people. We also promised the vice ambassador our prayer support for his nation.

Our hearts are bursting with gratitude to the Japanese government for such a great gift. We know that many lives will be saved. Our prayer is that our good Lord will bless you together with other benefactors for your generosity to us. *by Sr. Lucy*

HAPPY Easter  
**HAPPY Easter**  
To All!

Editorial committee

Sr. Michael Marie and Sr. Lucy