



June 11, 2011

Dear Sisters,

The month has passed so very quickly since my last update. Our maintenance building has shown significant growth. We expect that the work will continue to progress well.

I don't know if I can adequately recount the events of the past four weeks. Our immediate memory is the sharpest as we have had one feast after another. All but three of the bishops of Tanzania came for the big feasts.

A week ago a big group of us was in Mbinga for the consecration of Bishop John Ndimbo. I did not feel comfortable going up to take photos during the ceremony and we didn't stay for all the outdoor festivities. But I did take this photo at the end of mass as the bishops were leaving. Here on the left you see former President and Mrs. Mkapa as well as President Kikweti!



On Tuesday we joined the next celebration, the 50th Anniversary as Bishop of Bishop Nkalanga of Hanga Abbey. On Thursday we were back home at the 25th anniversary as bishop of our own Archbishop Mtega. You see him here with President Mkapa, Cardinal Pengo (at the far left) and other bishops.

We still were not finished with the feasting. On Friday we went back to the Mbinga diocese to our former station in Litembo where they were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the hospital which we founded.

The next celebration will be our own.

On Saturday our four will make their final monastic profession.



I was gone, for about 10 days, first to Uwemba then to Dar. The "Catholic Scholarship for Tanzania" Committee met again. We have been able to move ahead quickly so as to hire an executive secretary

and begin receiving applications for scholarships. When we get fully operational, we expect to award about 40 scholarships a year for higher education.

The annual superiors' meeting was held followed by the "study days" with the bishops. The topic was about Catholic education. There were some excellent presenters. Our meetings continued into the night. It was all quite exhausting.



Other things happening over the past weeks:

- Our new car arrived in Peramiho on 12 May. It is a new Land Cruiser Prado with two extra seats in the back like the Isuzu. This came to us thanks to Missio-Aachen and a friend of mine in the States. Please pray for our benefactors
- Several sisters helped with the vocation talks on Good Shepherd Sunday on the 15th of May.
- Sr. Giseline returned from home leave and from her diversity training course in Nairobi on 18 May. Sr. Gabriela also attended this session of diversity training and returned with her.
- On 22 May our four preparing for final vows and Sr. Rita renewed their vows. Then the intensifiers and Sr. Marissa went to Uwemba for retreat in preparation for final vows. Thank you, Uwemba sisters, for your warm welcome.
- Sr. Magdalena took 10 days of home visit because of her aging father. It gave her sister a break in caring for him.
- Srs. Gloria and Hildegard have arrived from Rome-Tutzing and are in Dar. They plan to come by bus tomorrow.
- Sr. Gracia is now in Assisi for the last section of her conference. When the conference is over she will go to our casa in Rome for some days of retreat. She will return to Dar on the 27th of June.
- We have finished the bean and soy bean harvest and are in the midst of our corn harvest now. It seems we have had a good year on the farm this year, also gradually step by step expanding the fruit orchard.

There is also big news in the archdiocese. I'm not sure that I have mentioned it. SAUT University is making a constituent college here in Songea. They are in the process of remodeling many of the Archdiocesan buildings (e.g. Sr. Don Bosco Center, the kindergarten, Radio Maria building, etc.) for use beginning in September. SAUT plans to use these buildings for about five years while they are building the college in the Tanga area. The Archdiocese is also in the final stages of the AMO school in Morogoro. They have remodeled the leprosy hospital into classrooms, built a major dormitory, administration building and house for the administrator. The DMI sisters are going to build a new technology school in Songea. The current buildings in Ruhuwiko will be changed into an agricultural school.

Looking ahead continues to indicate a lot of activity. Of course, our Final Profession is first on our minds this week. We are in the final week of preparations. May God bring the blessings to our work and to our brides. Other upcoming events:

- Sr. Katharina and Mr. Mahundi will represent Peramiho Girls Secondary School at the African Benedictine Educators' Conference in Nairobi which will be held from 22-27 June.

- Our retreat will begin the evening of the 20th until the 25th
- Sr. Elisabeth will make her home leave in Germany, departing Dar 28th of June.
- The retired archbishop and another priest from my Omaha Archdiocese in Nebraska will be coming to Peramiho to visit us arriving the evening of the 21st and departing the morning of the 24th.

We were hoping to move ahead on our Mjimwema project, but the estimated price came in too high and we have to reconsider our plans. We will get advice from another architect. This is disappointing, but must be faced and dealt with the best we can.

Sr. Sigwina seems to be weakening more and more each day. She spends more time in bed because of tiredness. She has no pain or major illness, but simply very old. Please continue to keep her in prayer.

Sisters, I am sure there is more I could tell you, but I don't want to hold this up any further. Already it has taken me till evening to complete the letter because of interruptions.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you and guide you in all things.
With gratefulness and prayer,

Sr. Rosann