



Report

EASTER: A Time to Celebrate, A Time to Share

During the Easter season, churches are packed with people celebrating the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus. Joyful singing and ceremonial dancing are part of their liturgical celebrations. The St. Cecilia Choir (photo below) of St. Thomas Catholic Parish, Archdiocese of Ibadan, drumming and singing during Easter Mass.



The sense and mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus which is celebrated during the Easter season reveals also how people, especially the Yorubas of Nigeria, have integrated this in their daily lives.

Sharing during the Easter season is something that is very



particular, and it is not taken for granted in this part of the world. Many families in the southwest of Nigeria live in a mixed context, in the sense that in the same family or neighborhood there are members who belong to different Christian churches, denominations, definite religions such as Islam or Traditional religions.

The sharing of food is a common practice. Christian families prepare a lot of food and distribute it to their neighbors regardless of their faith background. In fact, even priest or Religious share the joy of Easter with their neighbors by giving gifts. This is one of the reasons that peace is alive in this part of the country.

Easter season is indeed a time to celebrate, a time to share!

Fr. James Ngahy, M.Afr.

Education for Ability

The Mara Children's Center is located in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Their motto "Education for Ability" is a broad expression of the many programs the center provides to the poor and vulnerable children of the slums.



While education is the primary mission, the Center's aim is to provide healthcare services, a hot meal plan, basic sanitation and a clean water system to combat life-threatening water borne diseases.

Life in the slums is a dangerous place, especially for children. Many are subjected to abandonment, child labor and drug abuse.



The Mara Center is a place of refuge, hope, and each child's future. Thank you for making it possible!

Building a Water System!

The plan was to construct a water line from the nearest river to the Kala rectory, convent, health center and to the nearby villagers. The parishioners and villagers of Sumbawanga, Tanzania raised US\$2,000 as their local contribution. Sand and stones will be collected for the base of the tower where the tank will be fixed. The community's financial support and labor force will lower the installation costs. Yet, to complete the pipeline they will need additional funds to purchase four water tanks, one pump, four plastic water pipes and twenty-five bags of cement.



Fr. Sospeter Lyela asked for our donors help to complete their water system. As he said in his letter, *"The objective of our project was to provide not only clean water but also safe water. I want to assure you that we have succeed at preventing diseases like typhoid, dysentery and cholera in our area. I promise to pray for your benefactors and community because through your charity the project has been fulfilled."*

Being A Good Neighbor!

In many ways, photographs show a vivid story of people and life. The photographs below are the story of how the people of the local parish work together to bring water to the people of the Nyabyondo Village in the Fort Portal Diocese, Uganda.



The water committee discussing the water pipeline extension.



Village people digging trenches for laying water pipes.

This project entailed a lot of physical labor. The men of the village collaborated in digging the trenches for laying of pipes, back filling to lay the pipes and to build the tank and tap stands. The trenches were dug during the dry season and the ground was very hard but the men were determined to complete the work as soon as possible.

The pipeline passes through the property of several families, but everyone freely offered their land as will all have access to water.

The village people are excited to have clean water and to have it near their homes. The happiest people are the women and children as they are the ones who usually would have to walk long distances to fetch the water. Some children as small as five years old are now saved from walking the long distance. More importantly, families will have safe water for their use.



From this water reservoir located on a hill water flows to the village.

“The water project has been realized as planned” said Fr. Fred Tusingire. He also said “God bless all the donors who contributed to this important project for the entire village.”

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