

Sister Parish Partnership continues to grow

HOMA BAY – ST. CLOUD PARTNERSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

The Partnership of the Catholic Dioceses of Homa Bay, Kenya and Saint Cloud, Minnesota is an effort by people of faith of different continents and hemispheres to concretely live out our membership in our global Church and our one human family. Gospel values and Catholic social teaching on the dignity and equality of each person are the foundation of the relationship.

We hope to learn from each other, as well as to teach each other. We hope to one day share our material resources but our spiritual resources must remain at the forefront of our relationship. We believe in the power of mutual communication and action to promote our faith and our Church and to transform our world to be more just and loving, more closely following our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we go together to God.

PARTNERSHIP HISTORY:

In 1999, the Catholic dioceses of St. Cloud and Homa Bay, in association with Catholic Relief Services, took a new and proactive step toward living out the mission of God and the Church. Leadership Teams made up of the Bishop, clergy, Religious and laity in each diocese guide and animate the peoples of the dioceses toward mutual sharing of gifts, and the recognition that we are one in the Body of Christ. Together, our dioceses have grown to become a model of global solidarity and have united people of all ages spiritually, culturally and in a mutual sharing of gifts.

Our partnership with St. Peter's Parish in Oyugis was formally initiated in October, 2008 with Father

Martin of St. Peter's Oyugis after Father Alan joined us here at St. Peter's and St. Paul's parishes.

Fr. Martin Oyugi K'Oywa is the pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Oyugis. He has been a priest for nearly six years and is 35 years old. He personally supports about 21 orphans so that they are able to eat and go to school; 18 widows from St. Monica's group so that they can have a fruitful life in the community, 3 plots of land to grow food for his people,...and all of this with NO PAYCHECK!

Our partnership is built on faith and relationship building. The impacts of the partnership include household food security, improved awareness of cultural differences, improved access to education and supporting the people of God.

HOMA BAY / ST. CLOUD: A COMPARISON

DIOCESE OF HOMA BAY, KENYA

- Created in 1993
- Located in the south-western region of Kenya
- 2,200 square miles
- 399,273 Catholics
- 2.1 million people
- 26 Parishes, many sub-parishes
- Served by 57 priests
- 16 religious communities
- Crops include maize, sorghum, beans, cowpeas, green beans, cassava, arrow roots, millet, sweet potatoes, groundnuts

DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD, MN

- Created in 1889
- Located in Central Minnesota
- 12,251 square miles (16 counties)
- 150,000 Catholics
- 500,000 people
- 137 Parishes
- Served by 137 priests (49 retired)
- 5 religious communities
- Over 50% of diocesan parishes share a priest with one or more neighboring parishes
- Producers of: milk, butter, dairy cattle, eggs, turkey, corn, sugar beets, potatoes

IMAGES FROM KENYA: Our sisters and brothers in faith...



GREETINGS FROM THE SISTER PARISH COMMITTEE

The Sister Parish Partnership Committee will occasionally share with our local parish communities, this newsletter to keep you informed of activities, plans and how our partnership is growing with the people of Oyugis, Kenya.

PLEASE JOIN US! If you're interested in participating in our work or just knowing more about our partnership, please contact one of our committee members. We welcome you!!!

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UPCOMING SISTER PARISH EVENTS

WAFFLE BREAKFAST AT ST. PETER'S PARISH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES

ST. PETER'S PARISH CENTER

SERVING WAFFLES AND YOUR FAVORITE TOPPINGS, BACON, JUICE, COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP.

COME JOIN US AND SUPPORT OUR SISTER PARISH EFFORTS

LUO LANGUAGE LESSON:

Wadhi- let's go Tedo- cooking

Biika- come here SauaSua- enough

Ngima en mano- that's life

Learn more about the Diocese of Homa Bay Kenya. Visit: <http://www.catholicdioceseofhomabay.org/aboutthedioces>

