



REPORT ON THE CHILDREN'S PROJECT AND ASSISTING THE MOST NEEDY IN HOLY CROSS PARISH – KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

Here is a short report on the project for assisting children and those in urgent need in the parish of Holy Cross, through Dr. Alfons from Germany.

Fr. Jose Padinjareparampil took over as the rector of Don Bosco Kakuma and Parish priest of Holy Cross parish in Kakuma Refugee Camp from Fr. Luke who is well known to you all. At the beginning of my taking over the charge of the parish, Dr. Alfons, Mayor Menge and Ms Rebecca from Germany visited the parish. Thus we had a chance to know each other right at the beginning of the project.

Around the month of October we had severe floods in the camp. Many houses fell down and besides the houses, many people lost all their belongings. Even today many people are slowly recovering from it, though they were given assistance from UNHCR and other agencies. We too helped out in some cases so that people could somehow manage.

In the month of November riots broke out in the camp. It started between the Nuer and Dinka tribes of South Sudan, a spill over of the tension that was present at that time in South Sudan. Soon the problem spread to the people who had come from the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, Congo etc) as they were perceived to be supporting the Dinkas. In the violence that followed 8 people lost their lives and some people were reported as missing, and probably thousands got displaced. The tensions have almost subsided now and life is returning to normal.

During the tensions which affected all of us, especially we who are living in the camp, many people lost their properties and houses destroyed. Lives and property were lost and most of all people lost peace in their lives and their hearts. We had to help out some people who were mostly affected, especially those who were close to us in our works and those who were volunteering to help the children. We provided some with materials to rebuild their house, or other urgent needs.



A partial account of these kinds of expenses were given in the month of November.

I shared with Dr. Alfons an idea to organize the children in a better way. Our idea was to register the children as attending our program regularly. We wanted to give a different face to the bringing up of the children in the camp, most of whom we found were just left alone and around by themselves. Dr. Alfons communicated to me that the idea is good and we can go ahead with the program. I had intended to start the program in 3 places this year. We have already started the program in Holy Cross parish church and Christ the king substation. Finance was a major concern for us to start with a regular program and hence we were very sparing in using the funds that we had in the bank for other purposes. Once we start with the program we need to look at some allowances for the animators on a regular basis, some refreshments for the children, a simple uniform (at least a t shirt) and other materials like a small note book, chalk, games articles etc.

We are fortunate to have got a volunteer from Nairobi who has offered her time and energy to develop this program and supervise it. Her name is Mercy Gathoni and is a graduate in Social ministry. We only give her an allowance to meet her food and stationery requirements. Secondly we have Mr. Isack, an animator of children from Christ the king substation who is doing the same in Christ the King. Mr. Faraja is in charge of the program in Holy Cross, but he is away in Tanzania to meet his parents. The time he is away, Ms Mercy the supervisor is managing the program here.

In Christ the King substation we have already a total of 167 children who registered themselves for this program. We cannot take all, so we are limiting our number to about a 100. We have assured the rest that we shall take them in the next batch. In Holy Cross too we have about 120, though we will be able to take only about 100 children. The next station we would like to start with the program is St John Bosco substation. We would have started with the program there, but the animator, Moses, was not content with the allowance we were ready to offer. So we are looking for someone else and in due time we shall have the third centre. When we announced



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Don Bosco Kakuma Refugee Camp am: 15.02.2015

the program in the parish, all the substations wanted this program in the substation. Unfortunately we do not have the funds necessary for all at the same time. So we proceed cautiously, and hope we can serve at least some, even if not all.

The program is intended for children between the ages of 5 to 10. The program covers English, Kiswahili, Basic mathematics, Hygiene and Good Manners. The details of this program is being worked out as we try it out. We have some T shirts as a uniform that we give out to the children and insist that they should come with it clean. We intend to present to the community at large that without much money, we can be clean, neat and grow up nicely. They learn to sing some songs and even some prayers are taught. We give the children drinking water and some biscuits/sweets as a refreshment. There is a great scope for this work.

I am attaching the excel sheet with accounts. I have not changed the Euro into Kenya shillings, because the exchange rate is very low. I am hoping that it would go up. For now I have taken the money from the parish. As soon as the rate goes up I will change the money and hence I will be able to give the balance remaining. I am using the money very carefully because I want to do as much as possible with the money that is available. In the coming months I foresee the main expenses are going to be the allowances for the animators and refreshments for the children, some games articles etc.

So far the expenses had been the following:

First sending	₱ 104,120.00
Second sending	₱ 343,644.00
Total	₱ 447,764.00

For details, please see the attached excel sheet.



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I am very grateful to you and the whole group of you who are sacrificing your resources for the children and those most in need here in the refugee camp. I promise you that the money you have given will be very carefully and worthily spent. Thank you all and God bless you.

Sometimes I am slow in reporting, but I am trying to bring this program into an organized way. I assure you that once it is running properly and in full swing I will have in place systems to report back to you for every penny you give us on a more regular interval. This is because I know that you have a right to know what we do with the money you give us out of your hard earned money and generosity. Thank you very much.

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