



E-BULLETIN #211

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"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 400

the newest St Vincent Pallotti Church



With the placing of a relic of St Vincent into the altar, a very moving moment, the new church in his name at Ezzo was officially opened on the 23 Jan. 2016. It has been an extraordinary journey for all involved. In 2006 it was an outstation of a larger church in Arusha where Pallottines were asked to celebrate a weekly Mass. Since then it has become a thriving and independent parish, beginning with 120 christians and now having over 6000 members. And I can happily say that it is as exciting and as vibrant as the day I first set foot there.



What was it that caused such a transformation in Esso in such a short time? From the first day it took on a life of its own. People were happy and enthusiastic to be part of a new venture. Supporters, both local and from overseas, arrived to offer their time by volunteering or contributing to various projects.

Apart from setting up a new parish structure we were determined that our facilities contribute to the wider community and that all would have access to participation in sporting activities, recreation and education. Phase I was the construction of a Sports Hall. Since then it has been put to great use with basketball, netball, volleyball and 7-a-side soccer played every day and open to everyone. From 3 pm each afternoon the site is alive with hundreds of youth. And it's also producing an income, through hire of the hall for weddings and other celebrations. These funds, now managed by a local committee, are used to cover wages and on-going maintenance.

A Training Centre, comprising 8 classrooms, was next to be built and is currently home for a kindergarten and primary school with over 250 children. It is managed by the *Sisters of the Sacred Heart*. The IT programme is going well and is very popular, providing very good courses at a fair price. On average there are 25 students taking courses daily. Orla, an Irish volunteer, set up the school and her good work and commitment over the years made it sustainable, with local teachers now running the programme.



We also run adult education and literacy programmes along with on-going tuition courses for primary and secondary school students. We have an active "Living with HIV/Aids" group who attend various courses, have a weekly meeting to support one another and run an income generating project making soap for sale to households and companies in Arusha.

It's heartening to see our Pallotti project running by itself, something we hardly dared dream about or think possible. Looking back it is amazing to witness what had taken place and in such a short time. We thank God for it all and thank the many people who made it possible. My only wish is that the people of Esso will see it as their own, a resource that is a source of recreation, education and inspiration for all the people now and into the future.

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item 401

Silver Jubilee celebration

The Silver Jubilee of the arrival of the Pallottine Sisters in Tanzania was celebrated on 25 Jun, 2015. For weeks the Sisters were busy preparing and, with those in formation together with the parish choir, recording a CD called *Jubilee Gift*. A jubilee booklet, presenting the history of the last 25 years with contributions by various well-wishers, was printed.

The maize field in front of the convent in Siuyu was transformed into a stage with five jubilee tents. It was decorated with beautiful white, gold and blue material, the jubilee 'vitenge' (printed cloth) and an abundance of roses and lights.

At 10.30 Bishop Desiderius Rwoma, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Singida, proceeded to the newly built grotto of *Our Lady Queen of Peace*. After its blessing, all proceeded to the jubilee platform for the solemn Mass. Three choirs – from the parishes of Siuyu, Makiungu and Igunga – led the joyful singing, all dressed in the special jubilee 'vitenge'.

We were very happy that 19 of our Pallottine priests were among the group of about 45 priests who concelebrated with the Bishop to thank God for His many blessings over the years. Four deacons assisted at the Mass – two from the diocese and two Pallottines from Uganda. The newly composed anthem, "Silver Jubilee, Silver Jubilee", rang out over the village.

In his sermon the Bishop Rwoma praised and thanked the Sisters for their dedicated service to education, health care, and to handicapped children in the diocese, and he invited the Sisters to open a community in his home diocese of Bukoba.

After the Mass Sr Basilisa Jacob, vice-provincial, read a short history of the Pallottine Sisters in Tanzania. In 1990 the first 3 Sisters arrived from England to open the mission in Makiungu. Now there are 43 local and 3 European Sisters working in Tanzania.



The local community presented gifts and the Sisters received many others too from the visitors.

We estimate that over a thousand people took part in the celebrations. We were honoured to have with us Sr Josephina D'Souza, representing Sr Izabela Swierad and the General Council in Rome; Sisters from England, South Africa and Rwanda; Fr Hermes, a Pallottine priest from Malawi; and Rose Kathoka a member of the Union from Dagoretti parish, Nairobi, Kenya.

All the visitors were invited to a meal in the convent, the jubilee tents, the parish and school halls and under the trees near the tents. The celebration was a day of great blessing for the whole Pallottine family, a beautiful experience of joy, peace and good will among the people.

With love and confidence we look forward to the next 25 years, as we entrust our future to God our Father, to our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Apostles and to our holy founder, St Vincent Pallotti.

"Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

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