



PALLOTTINE newsletter Magogo

Number 2 September 2019



Maasai in Rome?

Prisca Kyemi, although in a Maasai dress she is not a Maasai. She is a young talented woman, of the Nyaturu tribe from Singida, Tanzania in East Africa, who was dreaming to see Rome and St. Peter's Basilica.

For many years after Prisca began working in Morogoro, she lived among the Maasai, learned their language, traditions and how to make Maasai ornaments. She was invited to Dakawa Parish in Morogoro Diocese, by Fr. Drazan Klapez, a missionary from Croatia, to help in pastoral work at the parish. Soon she became his right hand and a good collaborator in the Parish and the Rectory. Prisca is very much involved with the parish apostolate with Maasai women and is a strong supporter of the Pallottine Sisters who have recently opened a Community there.



Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Debiasi, Italian benefactors from Trento, Prisca's dream came true and will never be forgotten. She walked with happiness on the stones of St. Peter's Square, was overwhelmed by the beauty and greatness of St. Peter's Basilica, touched the tomb of the first Apostle and received the blessing of Pope Francis during the Angelus.

Our Pallottine Sisters from the Procura General in Rome were happy to host these special guests. With this beautiful experience we can repeat after Pope Francis, who says: *God is the God of surprises, God is always new!*



Development update

Because of the travelling distance the Sisters moved into the Convent on 31 January 2019 before the building was completed. There were no lights, the windows were not fixed and the upper parts of the doors were open. There were no Mosquito nets on the windows, there were so many insects especially centipedes and scorpions, the rooms were completely empty except for the beds. In the Chapel there was no furniture, life was very difficult. We thank God that today all the basics requirements are there. We expect the Convent to be opened on 21 November 2019.

God bless all who help us to complete this project.

Present sisters are Sr. Juliana Qaresi, Sr. Teresia Gurti and Sr. Felista Khumbele. Recently Sr. Anna John was appointed as a new member to replace Sr. Teddy who will start her Diploma in Education at the Jordan University in Morogoro in October 2019.



PALLOTTINE MISSIONARY SISTERS

Pallottine Missionary Sisters, Provincial Office, Poli Singisi, PO Box 964, Singida, Tanzania.



Magogo update

In February 2016 two Pallottine Sisters were sent to Magogo in Maasai land to open a new mission.

The two pioneer Sisters, Sr. Theresia Gurti and Sr. Veronica Michael Ghuliku had to stay in the parish for some time as there was no house for the Sisters. The conditions were very difficult for the Sisters as there were no suitable roads and their only means of transport was a motorbike. After a few months in the Parish the Sisters had to move to Magogo 8km into the bush and stayed there in a very small house with only two rooms which was meant for the Catechist who used to take care of a bore hole drilled by Fr. Drazan Klapez the parish priest of Dakwa.

Elisabetta Sanna Pre & Primary School was formally known as Magogo Primary School. It was not recognised by the government as an existing school. For that reason it was closed down on 6th April 2017.

On January 15th 2018, it was re-opened and was named Elisabetta Sanna Pre & Primary School.

The school started with only fourteen children and two teachers. Ten children were in grade one and four in pre-grade one. As the days passed the number of children increased from fourteen to twenty five. At present there are thirty-one in grade one, eleven in grade two and ten in pre-grade one. Most of these children come from the local community of Maasai families.

Challenges:

Many parents especially Maasai women would like their children to be in boarding school. The children walk long distances to reach the school which is not very safe for them. The area is mainly the bush, wild animals like



elephants and snakes are present. Moreover, by the time they reach their homes they are very tired. On top of that the children's home environment is not conducive for them to do homework, they have no electricity so they use paraffin burners which produce a dim light and may be dangerous for their eyesight.

Seventy five percent of people in this area are a pastoralist society. When the children come back from the school they look after the calves and the goats instead of doing homework and exercises given by their teachers.

Generally, these children do a lot of things instead of studying at home during their holidays and weekends:

- While at home they look after the cattle
- Carry their little ones
- Fetch water
- They use their local language and by the time they return to school they've forgotten much of what they have been taught. The teachers spend a lot of time helping the children to revise previous lessons in an effort to ensure they do not fall behind. This makes it difficult to retain continuity of the subjects in the lessons.

Their homes are scattered, and they come from different villages to reach the school on time. Another problem especially during the rainy season, most of them arrive very late and are soaking wet.



The Sisters have a Land Rover which helps to get them to school but for some it is impossible as there are no proper roads. It happens often when it rains while the pupils are at school and the teachers have to accompany them to cross to the other side of the river.

The long distances walking home after school makes them hungry and thirsty and they call into other people's homes seeking cool drinks if not something to eat. To overcome these difficulties we are planning to construct two dormitories one for the boys and another for girls, this will enable them to receive the education they aspire to and deserve.

Today we are very grateful to God and to all our friends and benefactors, who made sacrifices and support us in this challenging mission. Your support enabled us to complete a Convent for the Sisters who offer service in our primary school in Magogo.

We are in the final stage for the construction of the dormitory for the girls, which was our priority. Maasai Culture undermines women and makes them vulnerable to early marriages. In the Maasai society a girl child of 10 to 15 years can be married by an old man of over sixty.

If the children attend school as day students and return to their families each evening the chance to complete their studies is very slim.

The dormitory for boys is equally necessary as the Maasai people still live in very poor conditions which are unfavourable for the pupil's education. Often they come to school hungry, dirty and sick. The Sisters feel that a boarding school is the only way to provide effective education in a safe environment.

Any donation large or small is always welcome, and without like minded people, we would not have been able to start our mission work with the Maasai Community You can donate by: Bank transfer to: Account No 23114316 Sort Code 16-00-15 or by posting a cheque to: Pallottine Sisters, 52 Park Mount Drive, Macclesfield SK11 8NT For further details or to enable us to maximize your donation with Gift Aid please e-mail us at fundraiser@tpms.org.uk



Pupils on the assembly ground



Registration of Elisabetta Sanna English Medium Primary School

Magogo, Dakawa ward and Mvomero District. The registration process started in January 2018 but due to some difficulties was retarded up to January 2019. We received our registration letter on 24 January 2019 and the Certificate of Registration on 25th February. We thank God for his support and love which pushed us along the road, it was not an easy task.

Today the school is up and running and the learning process is taking place although with very limited facilities. In Elisabetta Sanna Primary School any little help is highly appreciated.

We extend our sincere thanks for all those who provide us with support of any kind. May almighty God reward them in abundant.

Sr. Basilisa Jacob SAC