



Pull-out
Extensive coverage
on Golden Jubilee of
Iriamurai Parish



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MWANGAZA

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EMBU, July/August 2017

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THE FARM: Poultry venture puts Ndwiga on the path to prosperity

Pg 8

Archbishop Muheria takes over new Mission



Archbishop Muheria (seated)
receives Pastoral staff from the
apostolic Nuncio at Nyeri
Story on Pg 4

Vote leaders of integrity-Church leaders

The Bishops and Church leaders from Embu County have advised voters to elect leaders of integrity in the August 2017 polls.

The leaders who converged during their Ecumenical prayers held at Embu's Moi Stadium and later preceded to ACK St. Paul Cathedral within Embu town said voters ought to elect people who

will transform their lives positively. The church leaders listed the following qualities to guide voters on the best leaders to elect.

Qualities of good leaders

God fearing, morally upright and respect rights of others; Committed to promoting human dignity and solidarity among people; Leaders who live and

practice human, ethical and family values. Promote and respect the rule of law and order in the society. Tested and proven to ascribe to what it takes to build their County and our Nation Kenya. Leaders committed to the welfare of all and to the attainment of the common good and those who uphold Kenya's Constitution.

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On 8th August 2017, Kenyans have a date with destiny. The future of our Nation is in our hands, and we cannot betray the future generations due to our short sighted selfish gains. On this date, we will make a very important decision on who lead us.

Mwangaza team lauds the efforts of Embu Ecumenical church leaders' forum for being in the frontline to call for a peaceful election campaigns devoid of violence, voter bribery, mudslinging and incitement.



Inasmuch as the church is a moral leader, she has the role of inculcating into society qualities of good leadership. Besides, the leaders pointed out the qualities of good leaders and those of bad leaders. Let us heed to their wise counsel by electing leaders of integrity.

We need leaders who offer hope, opportunities and future especially to our many frustrated and jobless youths and those who seek the much needed social transformation.

Alongside this, Archbishop Anthony Muheria, now the Archbishop of Nyeri commenting on this year's General election says, "We must treasure and defend the great gift of peace in our Nation. We must truly decide to be agents of peace, irrespective of any outcome. We must really resist the provocation and incitement by any leader. In fact, we must reject leaders who thrive in violence and indecency," he told **Mwangaza** in an interview.

On his part, John Cardinal Njue, the Archbishop of Nairobi urges voters to actively participate in the election process by exercising their right to vote. He says, "We cannot expect good leaders of integrity if we do not turn out to vote and vote wisely."

Inside this issue, read more about what motherhood demands, what caused Kianjokoma landslide, table-banking and the merry-go-round economic empowerment initiatives, the Chaplaincy in schools and many more.

Enjoy reading!

Published by Diocese of Embu;

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Embu Ecumenical Churches message to county residents

We, the Bishops and Church leaders of Embu County bring you Christian greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. As we did in 2013, in the same spirit, we make this joint communication to provide clear guidelines to our Christians and people of goodwill as we approach 8th General elections.

- 1) The Church shuns tribalism, ethnicity, clanism, sectionalism and all forms of division among our people. We should all embrace peace, love and unity before, during and after the election.
- 2) The Church shall not condone acts of corruption, bribing of voters, cultism, witchcraft and other unethical and sinful practices of wooing voters. Our youth should not be given illicit brews and drugs to woo them to vote for a candidate. The Church will 'blow the whistle' where such unethical practices are exercised among our people.
- 3) We encourage the Christians and the people of Embu to accord every aspirant respect and an opportunity to express their policies in the political rallies and other fora without intimidation. All aspirants are our children, leaders and members of our community and therefore should be given an equal opportunity. The church shall not campaign for or against any candidate. The people shall elect a candidate of their choice independently.
- 4) The Church shall not tolerate aspirants who display acts of violence, abusive or vulgar language, utterances that divide and cause breach of peace, arrogance, intimidation and disrespect of all forms during rallies and meetings. The Church appeals to all Christians and the people of Embu to engage in peaceful interaction and campaigns with dignity and decorum. Elections will come and go but the Christians and the people of Embu will remain and we shall need one another.
- 5) No entertaining of political statements during church services or within the church precincts. Let political aspirants do their campaigning elsewhere. The Church must only be used for worship and religious activities.
- 6) All registered voters are encouraged to come out and vote on 8th August to exercise their God-given opportunity of identifying credible and God fearing leaders. This County and Nation cannot make a decision without your vote.
- 7) We make this passionate appeal to all Christians, people of Embu, general electorates and politicians to desist from any form of utterances and activities that may divide and cause a breach of peace among the community of Embu County.

Signed by:

All Bishops and Church Leaders: Embu County.

Diocese starts phase two of the Pastoral Center Project

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

The diocese of Embu has officially started phase two of the Pastoral Center Project after official contractor won a very meticulous competitive tender.

Speaking during the signing of the documents ceremony held at the site recently, Diocese of Embu Bishop Rt. Rev Paul Kariuki said the process of looking for the contractor started by advertising in the media whereby seven contractors applied and only three were shortlisted.

“We sent our team to investigate the buildings they have done, their histories and whether they have any court cases amidst other problems. After thorough scrutiny, we remained with two. Then through the assistance of the College of consultants, Charles Kamuti won the tender,” he revealed.

Kamuti, who was present, thanked the Diocese for being picked from among many. He assured everyone that he would do a good job and complete the contract within the stipulated time of forty weeks.

Bishop Kariuki said the diocese started

He revealed that the goal is to have more than 200 room capacity. “The first phase has 48 rooms. Several structures will also be constructed on the site. Since Rome was not built in one day, we shall go at our pace,” he explained.

The Bishop noted that Phase two of the project was very crucial for the entire Pastoral Center complex to operate. He added that the edifice would form our Christians in a deeper life of faith for the benefit of the entire Diocese community and immensely contribute to the work of evangelization and human promotion.

The first phase of the Pastoral Center Project started in 2012, when

the diocese had invited Daniel Charles Balvo, the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan to officially lay the first foundation.



Bishop Kariuki signs the contract to start construction of the second phase of the pastoral center

phase two of the Pastoral Center Project before fully completing the first one following an advice by an engineer.

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Bishop Muheria installed as Nyeri Archbishop



Bishop Kariuki (right) congratulates Bishop Anthony Muheria after he was installed as the Archbishop of Nyeri.

Bishop Muheria was the second bishop of Embu Diocese

BY FR JAMES GATITI

Bishop Anthony Muheria took canonical possession of Nyeri ecclesiastical province in a colorful ceremony held at Christ the King Major Seminary in Nyeri County on 17th June 2017.

The installation ceremony was conducted by the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo and the former Archbishop of Nyeri Peter Kairo.

The ceremony started by reading the letter from Pope Francis dated 23rd April 2017. It was read in Latin, Kiswahili and Kikuyu languages. Archbishop Muheria professed the apostolic creed as stipulated in Canon 833 of the code of Canon law of 1983.

The installation ceremony marked the end of the 8th year tenure of the now retired Archbishop Kairo. In the ceremony, Archbishop Kairo handed over the staff of office back to the Apostolic Nuncio, who then handed it over to the new shepherd, Archbishop Muheria.

The installation ceremony was witnessed by John Cardinal Njue, the Archbishop of Nairobi, about 15 Catholic Bishops, hundreds of priests, religious sisters and brothers. It drew thousands of Christians from Nyeri, Kitui, Machakos and Embu amongst other places.

Archbishop Muheria was accompanied by his family: his parents and his brother Patrick Njoroge and the Governor of Central bank of Kenya and siblings. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who was invited to the ceremony was represented by members of the first family among them Mama Ngina Kenyatta and Sister Kristina Pratt amidst other dignitaries.

Archbishop Muheria's first speech expressed confidence and urged for commitment towards the growth of the church, reiterating that he will constantly seek counsel from his predecessor whom he fondly referred to as *Mzee* and Bishops of the suffragan dioceses.

"My dear priests, we have joined a journey already started.

We are just taking a step forward and building on a foundation of heroes: great Bishops like the late Caesar Gatimu, before him late Charles Cavallera, late Nicodemus Kirima and Peter Kairo.

We cannot be responsible for the collapse of the wonderful building the lord has given us. Let us work together. I need your hand to lift you and you to lift me," he said.

He urged religious men and women to always be on their knees praying. He told them, "In this wonderful Archdiocese, we have Blessed Sister Irene Nyaatha of prayer and action. You have to carry the legacy of work, faithfulness, prayerfulness and selfless service."

Archbishop Muheria, who became priest on the feast of Corpus Christi 24 years ago, arrived in Nyeri on the eve of the year 2017 Corpus Christi. His logo stands for the Holy Eucharist. He urged the Christians to develop love for the Holy Eucharist where they will draw strength.

In his homily, KCCB chairman Bishop Philip Anyolo advised Archbishop Muheria to serve the people entrusted to him in the pattern of our lord Jesus Christ the good shepherd.

"Have strong leadership which is firm, fearless and concerned only for the welfare of the flock. Have preferential option for the poor especially the poor in spirit. Your priests, deacons, men and women religious are there to help you. However, they will often come to you seeking for help, answers, support and consolation, listen to them" he advised.

Archbishop Kairo retired aged 75 years.

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Procession for Embu church Leaders during their Ecumenical prayers event

Continued from pg 1

Leaders accountable to the people and take the responsibilities for their own failures and mistakes so as to end the culture of impunity.

Leaders who rise above clan, tribal, gender, religious or regional politics so as to unite and bring people together irrespective of where they come from, language or color. Leaders who protect the rights of minorities and have the political will to bring development and equality to all, not forgetting the inclusion of the poor in the planning and performing

every relevant project. Leaders who use dialogue while seeking for votes and leaders who are out to serve and totally interested in the well-being of all. They should be known to men and women of proven integrity.

Qualities of bad leaders

Violent and those who promote war like activities. They are even ready to kill or assassinate since for them the end justifies the means.

Selfish and arrogant leaders, who

promote hate speech, using money to bribe and buy votes, use their position to threaten and intimidate people to vote for them and use the tribal card and whip up negative ethnic emotions should not be elected.

Use the tactics of “divide and rule.” Misuse public resources for their own selfish ends, those known to use all means, including voter importation to secure their positions, leaders who exploit the vulnerability of others for their own selfish ends, leaders only after enriching themselves or use political positions to protect their wealth.

The prosperity of Embu is in our hands as Embu County dwellers. Let us be vigilant in ensuring that we vote leaders of integrity to govern our County and Country. We urge you to pray that our election will be peaceful and that God will give us the wisdom to elect good leaders – men and women of integrity.

We equally appeal to all people and officials manning the electoral process in Embu County to exercise transparency, accountability, integrity, restraint and fairness in executing their mandate in line with the Kenyan Constitution. The Bishops urged them to be approved workmen of God (2Tim.2:15).



Section of politicians who attended the Ecumenical prayer at the ACK church Embu

One - on -One interview

His grace Archbishop Anthony Muheria (pictured) took canonical possession of Nyeri Ecclesiastical Province as the 5th Archbishop on 17th June 2017. Mwangaza spoke to him and he gave us the following.

1. What does your office embrace?

As usual in the Catholic Church the offices we hold, and the assignments given, are in the Spirit of our Lord the Good Shepherd. I pray that in spite of my limitations, I may try in a small way to emulate such a lofty standard of truly caring and giving up my likes and life for the sheepfold that the Lord now entrusts to me. It is a great sign of trust that I do not merit, and yet, as Christians we are consoled that The Lord grants us the necessary graces to realize his work. I really do not know what it will hold for me, since it is a totally new territory, but I will count on the advice and tutorage of the retiring Archbishop Peter Kairo and that of other priests and faithful of the Archdiocese. I guess I have a lot to learn.

2. Do you have plans for Nyeri Province?

This is a new territory. I know a lot has gone on in a spirit of communion in the Metropolitan of Nyeri, of which I was a member when I served the Diocese of Embu. My brother bishops of the province will guide and induct me into the issues with which they were dealing. Many of them have a much wider experience than I. Above all, the most important gift to nurture at the Metropolitan is the spirit of communion in the service of the Lord in the entire vineyard.

3. What help can we render today's youth?

The apostolate with the youth is a priority, both now and always. It is not enough to employ a defensive approach in view of so many threats that assail them. We need more and more to equip them with a solid doctrinal and human foundation to be true apostles. By spending time with them, encouraging them and giving them constant formation, they will be empowered and resist the temptations of the society's immoral trends.

4. High cost of living oppresses the poor. What is your take?

Our Christian vocation invites us not only to live a life of prayer and liturgical involvement, but also to be involved in the society as "salt



and light". That means as citizens we must engage in order to transform society for better. This is both a mandate in caring for the poor and marginalized in works of Mercy but also in influencing the systems of society so that lasting solutions can be found. As we approach the General Election, the conscience of the Christian voter and indeed any patriotic Kenyan, should lead him or her to seek which leader will truly facilitate this care and improvement of the very poor in society.

5. What would you tell Kenyans on election?

Besides reiterating the message of the Catholic Bishops, that we must elect leaders of integrity; I would add that we must vote with our conscience and not our stomach. The future of our Nation is in our hands, and we cannot betray future generations due to our short sighted selfish gains.

We are appealing to all Kenyans to

commit to peace before, during and after elections.

6. What can be done to curb hate speeches in campaigns?

The solution lies within the hearts of both the leaders and citizens. Let us first of all begin by not cheering these leaders that make such declarations.

7. What can be done to better environmental conditions?

The challenge and task lies on the individual Christian and communities. We need practical action points to start doing something: planting trees at homes, schools and churches. This is something we must all take to heart, and in fact it is so easy to achieve. So let us encourage Christians to plant trees and seek alternative sources and more efficient ways of using fuel.

8. "There is no perfect family," says Pope Francis. Tell us more on this.

We in Africa have a wealth of families. What we must do is to safeguard and nurture this gift. For us now, the threat is many families staying together without the sacrament of matrimony. From Pope Francis' call we can take up a clear pastoral priority to facilitate and encourage Christian marriages.

9. What is your parting shot?

Please pray for me as I begin this new mission. I also ask the faithful of the Archdiocese of Nyeri that we ask God to bless us all on occasion of this celebration which is a moment of Grace.



Archbishop Muheria's logo



REV. FR. SAMUEL CLEMENT NGARI KIBARIKI



Invites

Christians of Embu Diocese

To his **Golden Jubilee** Celebrations of his Priesthood on **15th August, 2017.**

Thanks giving Mass will be on **19th August, 2017** at **Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral** Presided over by **Rt. Rev. Paul Kariuki Njiru** as from **10:00 AM**

PSALM 9:1

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Fr. Kibariki requests for your Prayers, Presence & Support

Embu diocese hosts metropolitan youth mass

BY MURUGI KARIUKI

It was pomp and color as the Diocese of Embu hosted youngsters from seven other Dioceses that comprise the metropolitan of Nyeri for this year's occasion.

The mass that was held at Kangaru Girls High School grounds on 4th June 2017 comprised youth members from Nyahururu, Meru, Maralal, Nyeri,

Marsabit, Isiolo, Murang'a and Embu Dioceses.

The fully packed venue brought together over 3, 000 young people. This mass coincided with the feast of Pentecost.

During his homily Rt. Rev Anthony Ileri Mukobo Bishop of the Vicariate of Isiolo, the main celebrant, emphasized on the need of young people to grow into the personality of order.

He urged them to utilize their talents and abilities for the glory of God calling upon them to be ambassadors of peace.

The host Chaplain in the Diocese of Embu, Fr Jeremiah Nyaga, thanked all the Youth Coordinators from across the Metropolitan for turning out in large numbers.

Poultry venture puts Ndwiga on the path to prosperity

BY FELIX MURIITHI

The busy Embu-Meru highway gets us to Ena market, a 30-minute drive from Embu town.

From here, one can see Karue hill, a famous tourist attraction to many people who hail from Embu and her neighboring counties.

We are looking for a young farmer who has set up a poultry empire here. His name is Jacob Ndwiga, the owner of Flexfarm Poultry.

I hatch chicks for sale,” he says adding that a day old chick costs Sh100.

Ndwiga who is a graduate with Bachelors of Economics from Kabianga University is passionate about chicken rearing. He ventured into it in April 2016.

After completing his university education in April 2015, Ndwiga got a job as an assistant accountant at a private hospital in Embu County where he works to date.



Jacob Ndwiga holding two of his birds

On arrival, we find him busy tending to his birds while Zachary Mutua, the farm manager is cautiously positioning eggs in the incubator machine.

Ndwiga, 26, goes about his business in his poultry farm with ease. He puts more layers feeds in the troughs, collects eggs and cleans the water cans.

He has 250 improved *kienyenji* chicken, 30 are cockerels and the rest hens.

“I don’t sell these birds because I only keep them for production. Alternatively,



Ndwiga at his farm

One year later, he constructed bird cages and bought 100-day old chicks from Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)-Naivasha to start the project.

In August 2016, he borrowed Sh100,000 loan and purchased a 528 egg capacity incubator among other few things that saw his business expanding.

POULTRY EMPIRE

Ndwiga is an all-round farmer who is carving a niche in the business as he works on his dream of building a poultry empire.

The farmer collects at least 190 eggs per day. From this, he keeps 150 for hatching and sells other eggs at Sh600 per crate. All his eggs are fertilised.

“I put the fertilised eggs into the incubator in bits depending with the chicks order. I also ensure that I have chicks all the time. My major markets for chicks are in Meru, Embu and Nairobi,” he reveals.

For brooding services, which involves



Farm manager Zachary Mutua

vaccinating chicks, keeping them in the brooder for several days and feeding them, the charges differ depending on the age of the birds. The cost ranges from Sh130 to Sh260 per chick per week, with a month old birds attracting the highest fees.

He says many farmers buy three-week old birds because they are easy to manage as they have been vaccinated. In a week, Ndwiga makes at least Sh30,000 through selling his day-old chicks. Currently, he doesn’t sell mature birds as they are meant only for production.

“I market my products through placing advertisements on *Mwangaza Newsletter* and free online classified websites,” says Ndwiga, who also rears geese and turkeys which he says helps in maintaining security for his birds.

Ndwiga prefers keeping improved *kienyenji* chicken to others because, this breed matures faster and are not prone to diseases. His mature bird consumes about 130 grams of feeds per day.

Obed Njamura, an agricultural extension officer based in Runyenjes says the common poultry diseases are Newcastle, infectious bronchitis and gumboro, fowl pox, fowl typhoid and salmonella. He says these diseases can be managed through vaccination.

Njamura adds that improved *kienyenji* chicken breed is good for eggs production throughout since they don’t incubate saying that under good management, improved *Kienyenji* hen starts laying eggs at the age of between 4-5 months.

In the next five years, Ndwiga dreams to have a chicken meat processing plant that will see him supplying chicken products across the country.

Embu parishioners celebrate Christ love in style



Fr Jeremiah Kinyua and Fr Moses Njagi bless parishioners with the blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

Our Lady of Assumption Embu parishioners celebrated the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ recently in a colorful ceremony held at Kangaru Girls high school.

The annual celebration brought together parishioners from the eleven prayer houses of the parish and students from the nearby higher institutions of learning.

Speaking during the homily, Fr Jeremiah Kinyua, Our Lady of Assumption parish priest, underscored the centrality of the mystery of the Holy Eucharist in the life of a Christian and how it nourishes faith, and strengthens love and unity of believers.

“During the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, we come together as Embu parish community where we celebrate one

parish mass to give thanks to God for His many favors upon our lives. We renew and strengthen our relationship with Jesus who is truly and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist,” he said.

Besides, they assemble to thank God for what He has enabled them to accomplish as a parish community and as individual families.

“It is an opportunity to thank God for the peace we enjoy each day, for the sun that shines and brightens our day,

for fresh air we breathe, the water we drink that quench our thirst and for our mother Church. We ask Him to continue strengthening our love for Him and for one another,” he revealed.

Fr Kinyua reminded parishioners to always prepare themselves well when going to receive the Holy Communion by cleansing their hearts of sin by approaching the sacrament of confession. He urged them to stay at peace with God, themselves and their neighbors.

After mass, Christians made a solemn procession accompanied by Jesus exposed in the Monstrance. A pick-up immaculately decorated carried other two priests who played different roles during the procession. Fr Anselm Nyaga led prayers at the five stations of the procession while Fr Moses Njagi blessed the congregation using the monstrance.

The huge congregation moved from Kangaru Girls, along the busy Embu –



Embu parishioners during the Procession

Meru highway, to Embu town amidst tight security from the Kenya police service.

During the procession, Christians sang hymns of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, joy and those seeking for God’s blessings, mercy and forgiveness.

The Pontifical Missionary Children (PMC) dressed like angels, covered the road with flowers where the most Holy Sacrament was to pass. The climax of the celebration was at Our Lady of Assumption where there was adoration and Benediction crowning the celebrations.



What motherhood really demands?

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

The world celebrated the International Mother's Day on 13th May 2017. This reminds us that every one of us is born of a loving and caring mother who nurtured us from the time we were young. *Mwangaza team* interviewed Agnes Mutua, the former Catholic Women Association (CWA) Chairlady in the diocese on what motherhood really demands.

Motherhood involves the responsibilities of breast-feeding a child, bringing up a family and inculcating the values and virtues that help a child grow to become a responsible person. She also must take care of the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, security and education. In other words, mothers should do all in their power to bring up their children taking care of their physical, cultural, social and religious aspects.

To bring up children is a tough responsibility which requires total self-sacrifice. As children grow up, a mother requires a lot patience, love and care. She must be a role model to her children and ready to accommodate the challenges that may come her way.

"I felt a lot of pain after losing my first born child, Daniel Mutua after breastfeeding him for three hours after birth," she recounted.

The boy gender is closer to their mothers more than their fathers since the relationship begins from the time of breast-feeding and continues as the child grows. "When faced with a problem they normally approach their mothers to sort them out," she said.

Besides, mothers should be true friends of their children by accompanying them in all aspects of life, while at home and in school. They should not only provide the basic requirements for their children's education, but should enquire from the teachers' their academic performance.

Alongside this, they should be in a position to identify their children's talents early enough and encourage them to work towards realizing the same.

enquire from their children the plans they have for future and when they intend to marry.

Mrs. Mutua, wife to John Mutua, a retired Barclays Bank employee says together with her husband have brought up their children by having constant family meetings where they discuss socio-economic and spiritual issues affecting them.

"During such meetings we evaluate on how we do our things, give feedback and plan ahead. Our children have a chance to evaluate us as well," she revealed.

The former employee with Plan International noted that the stay-at-home mothers have the advantage of bringing up their children by themselves. This is unlike the working mothers who employ house helps who are at times not good role models to the growing child.

Besides, children of stay-at-home

mothers have the advantage of growing up relating well with the extended family members and neighbors, grandparents, relatives, cousins, uncles and aunts.

"Although I used to employ house helps, my father and mother in-laws visited my family regularly where they offered guidance over the upbringing of my children," the 59 year old recounted.

The gift of motherhood goes beyond biological limits extending to helping the less privileged members of our society.

Mrs. Mutua, who hails from Rianjeru village in Kiamuringa Sub-location Mbeti South location within Mbeere South Sub-County, is a mother of two boys (one not alive) and two girls. She is a member of Muthatari prayer house of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral parish.



Mrs Mutua chats with her husband Mr John Mutua

"I encourage my children to face the challenges of life as they come. Those who have not managed to get a stable employment; I encourage them not to give up. As we pray for them, we tell them to pray for themselves and wait upon God to bless them," she revealed.

Mothers should be concerned with what is happening in the lives of their children especially today when teenagers know a lot from smart phones, videos and media. They should discuss freely the issues affecting them and this helps to build trust and bridge the analogue and digital divide between them and their children.

Mothers should guide and counsel, caution and discipline their children for engaging in errant behaviors or in dubious relationships. They should

Table banking, Merry-Go-Round empowers CWA members



Kathangariri CWA members during their activities. Below in a group photo

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

We normally say, when you educate a woman, you educate the nation. We can as well say, when you empower the woman you empower the nation. A group of Catholic Women Association (CWA) has significantly improved their living standards through merry-go-round and table banking initiatives.

They come from Muvandori, Kauga and Kauguri villages of Kathangariri prayer house within Nguviu parish. This group has been empowered to a level of supplementing their husband's income and boosting their morale in bringing up families.

The village group that comprises the young, middle aged and the old has enabled members to be fulfilled and convinced of their capabilities.

"Where there is financial want in the family, the woman has become the bridge in supporting the family financially in case her husband is unable to do so. She is a bridge in propping the family economically," says Monica Muchangi, the CWA chairlady of Kathangariri prayer house.

Besides, members provide the basic requirements in the family like food, clothing, shelter and education of their children from the money they get through the merry-go round initiative.

"From this initiative, many of us have bought cattle, goats, sheep, and chicken as well as helping their families build permanent houses. This operation has

made us realize great transformation in the lives of the members and their families," she says.

Mary Wambogo, the group Chairlady says, "We meet every Thursday from 2.00 pm and start our meetings with prayers. We read and share the word of God together before making any deliberation.

Since our group has two initiatives, we contribute Sh50 per member for table banking. Our members, however, borrows through this initiative.

Moreover, we carry out member inter-visits every Thursday where each one of us contributes Sh200. We have a total of

57 members," she says adding that after completing the member-circle, they make a special collection and dedicates it to the church.

The idea of merry-go-round started in the year 1991 with a main aim of improving lives of the members who come from the three villages. The group is guided by rules that help their operations run smoothly. They thank the Church for the human, cultural, social and spiritual formation they continue to receive.

"Apart from economic empowerment, we also encourage the newly wed to persevere in marriages even when they meet trials. We advise them to trust in God and to have patience.

We encourage those married traditionally to formalize their marriages in Church as well as urging those who have slackened in their faith to return to the church and become active members," Dionisia Wandiri, the treasurer of the group says.

The group visits the needy and the less privileged members in the villages and offer moral support and contributes in kind. "Our members pay school fees for the needy in schools and foot medical bills for our members," says Wambogo.

This notwithstanding some of their members faces challenges of domestic wrangles from spouses and extended family members who are afraid of their achievements.



Bishop breaks the ground for building priests' house at Kangeta

BY STAFF WRITER

Diocese of Embu Bishop Paul Kariuki has exhorted Munyori parishioners to ensure unity and love prevails upon them as they dedicate themselves to the construction of the new Presbytery at Kangeta prayer house.

Speaking to hundreds of parishioners who had gathered at Kangeta center for holy mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Bishop pointed out that the new parish project would facilitate evangelization as well as bring social development to the people in the area.

He called upon them to always have hope and trust in God, despite the challenges they face. "To those who put their trust in God, miracles do happen, for Christ reveals himself to them always," he assured them.

After the celebration of mass, Bishop Kariuki performed the ground breaking ceremony for the new parish and presided over the fundraising function that collected about Sh800, 000.

Fr Joseph Njiru, the Munyori parish priest revealed that the dream of making Kangeta center a parish started way back in 1976 due to the challenges of distance. He said that the farthest prayer house is 18 kilometers away while the shortest is about 7 kilometers from the parish in non-maintained roads.

To ensure the entire parish is covered, priests organize reach out programs which include; devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on first Fridays of the month, office days, masses at the small Christian communities where they have confessions, visiting old and the sick, home blessings among others.

Fr Njiru and his assistant, Fr Wilson



Bishop Paul Kariuki plants a tree at Kangeta prayer House assisted by Fr Joseph Njiru Munyori parish priest during the function

Munyi celebrates three masses on Sundays. Fr Paul Kinyua, the Bishop's Executive Secretary, gives hand on Sundays by celebrating three masses. Six prayer houses celebrate *Ibada bila padre* led by two seminarians and an acolyte. Munyori parish serves 15 prayer houses.

Fr Njiru said that they face the challenge of providing proper formation to the Christians in matters of faith and catechesis. The other grave challenge they face is that of the boy-child, who is lost in Miraa lucrative business that earns them easy money.

This has so preoccupied them to the extent of abandoning schooling and Church services. There is also the challenge of improving the formation of leaders and their understanding of their roles in the Church.

Fr Njiru thanked Bishop Kariuki for honoring the desires of Kangeta Christians of building a presbyters house assuring him that the presence of the priests in the parish will greatly contribute to the deepening their faith and their involvement in the Church life.

Munyori parish is in Mbeere South Sub-County, a semi-arid area and is under Maria Consolata Deanery. It covers Mbita, Kianjiru and Mbeti South locations.

Mbita location has Mbita and Gikiiri sub-locations, Kianjiru location consist of Kirima and Nyangwa sub-locations; Mbeti South location comprises Gachoka, Kiamuringa and Gachuriri sub-locations. Gachoka and Kiamuringa sub-locations are in Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral parish. The parish will serve Gachuriri sub location.

What caused Kianjokoma mudslide?

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

In the morning of 19th May 2017, Kanyakiri village near Kianjokoma market witnessed a frightening mudslide never seen in the area before.

The mudslide ferried trees and tea bushes for about 400 meters and destroyed crops worth about Sh3million. It caused huge scars, valleys and depressions on the surface. This fear provoking occurrence was observed as residents woke in the

morning to pick tea.

"The mudslide moved large tracks of land and trees from their usual place and planted them elsewhere," area residents say.

What caused mudslide at Kianjokoma?
Mwangaza team visited the site and spoke to Kanyakiri villagers who hold various theories as to what might have caused this massive destruction of their tea farms and crops through mudslide.

Some say the mudslide was perhaps caused by water that leaked from a nearby pipe. "Water from the pipe started leaking from 9.00 pm the previous day. After the pipe was repaired twelve hours later, the mudslide stopped," some residents report.

Others think the mudslide happened as a result of a cultural myth. They say; Once, a huge *Mugumo* tree stood within the area but it was cut down against the traditional believes and customs. In

Universal day of the poor by Pope Francis

BY FR ALEX MATI

The declaration by Pope Francis that the universal day of the poor be celebrated on 33rd Sunday in the Church calendar coincides with the Caritas day celebrations in Embu Diocese. The call by the Pope and the spirit of Caritas to serve the poor is one and the same thing.

Rt. Rev Paul Kariuki, the bishop of Embu heeding the message of the Pope, urged priests during their on-going formation at Bethany house, Sagana, to encourage the masses to identify and recognize the poor and walk with them by way of sharing life and what they have with them.

This promotes the gospel value of love among the haves and the have-nots. It is a day marked with the Caritas family spirit of visiting and praying with the sick, those in prison, the destitute and the vulnerable as a sign of hope that life will become better.

Besides, it is a day marked with planting of trees to better the environment, walking several kilometers highlighting the plight of the poor, the marginalized, the down trodden, the vulnerable and a call for those without voice in the society to be given their rightful place and services by the authorities. So Pope Francis declaration that the 33rd Sunday be a day for the poor shall be an opportunity to:

- Promote peaceful and harmonious coexistence among all peoples.
- Mobilize the community to contribute in kind and in cash. Such a contribution shall go towards assisting the poor in their effort to better their lives.



Fr Alex Mati Embu Caritas Director distributes Mattresses to the needy

- Engage the decision makers to identify gaps that contribute to poverty while taking advantage of the many opportunities that exist to better the lives of the poor.
- Promote fair distribution of resources to reach those in need especially the poor households.
- Continue to engage the donor partner community to support initiatives towards poverty eradication,
- Relieve people from all dehumanizing and oppressive factors.

In every community there are needy people who deserve the attention of the Church. Poverty may be brought about by limiting policies, unequal distribution of resources, circumstances beyond ones control, cultural and traditional practices which still exist in the society, disability, accidents which render one hopeless among others.

It is in this regard that Caritas Embu recognizes that within communities, there exist those that are very rich and are fewer, middle class and the majority poor. This pyramid needs to be worked out by bridging the gap between the poor and the rich.

Currently, Caritas is responding to these gaps by implementing initiatives towards enabling the poor to take up their developmental needs by the horns.

This is demonstrated through reflection and analysis sessions in the poor households who are encouraged to look back at their lives, identify the injustices done and come up with solutions to remedy the injustices and mistakes.

During the recent famine in the country, Embu Caritas embarked on mobilizing Christian communities and people of goodwill to contribute in cash and kind towards relieving those that were hard hit, especially in the lower part of the diocese.

the past, *Mugumo* tree was considered sacred among the Aembu people and it was a taboo to cut it down.

James Theuri, a Geography Secondary School teacher at St. Angela Nguviu Girls says, "Our understanding of the mass movement, which is down the slope movement of loose unconsolidated materials are due to the effect of lubricating water.

If there was a possibility of earth tremors, this could have caused the bursting of water pipes which could

have led to the sudden leakage of large volumes of water. This could have triggered the mudslide," he says.

He explains that earth tremors are small scale vibrations of the earth crust which in the ordinary circumstances may not be detected or quantified.

The other possibility is the heavy rains that had been reported pounding the area for the last two weeks which also could be the major catalyst of the mudslide occurrence.

"The difference between a mudslide

and landslide is that in a mudslide, there is a solution of water and soil which becomes mud, while a Landslide involves simply the massive movement of dry soil and rocks fragment down the slope and it is more disastrous," says Theuri.

Mudslides are common in areas where there are steep slopes and receives high amount of rainfall. This is taught as a topic in Geography in form three called **Mass wasting and mass movement** under external land forming processes.

Catholic Church position on the role of chaplaincy in schools

BY THE STAFF REPORTER

The role of Chaplaincy services in schools is very clear in the Basic Education Act 2013. This was said by Augusta Muthigani (*Pictured*), the Executive Secretary Commission for education and Religious education at the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB).

Speaking during the Diocese of Embu clergy on-going formation at Bethany house, Sagana on 13th June 2017, she also said that the parents, religious leaders and learners expressed the need for spiritual formation as they go through their schooling.

“If spiritual services have to make an impact in every school, a regular chaplaincy must be established. They must interact with the learners; teachers and support staff, to know their spiritual needs. Besides, the child has so many needs that impact on spirituality. That’s why a person staying outside the school compound will not assist them,” she said.

Muthigani said that Chaplaincy roles will include organizing services for Catholics and non-Catholics in schools.

“They will work out programs that are child appropriate, which will form them spiritually. If they are Christians, they will be taken through what being a Christian means by being catechized.

They will work out on values and morals while addressing the emerging issues



that learners are faced with namely drugs and substance abuse, HIV/Aids, violence in schools, gangstalism among others,” she said.

She reiterated that our children are engaging in all manner of vices because they have a vacuum in their lives. At the same time, the Chaplains will also address the challenges that children bring from homes.

“Most of the difficulties children have in schools like indiscipline emanate from homes. The Chaplain will be the link between the child and the home, between

the child and the parents,” she revealed.

She noted that where there are Chaplains in schools, discipline is very high because chaplains interact with the learners at a personal and informal level differently from what the teachers can do.

“Chaplains act as mediators to learners. They are available, show a caring approach and acceptance. More so, their Godly aspect makes them highly approachable by the learners which help to build trust,” she stressed.

Those to be appointed Chaplains by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) are priests, religious men, women and laity aged 45 years and below while those to become Parish Chaplains age is not an issue.

The challenges envisaged in their appointment include resistant from the school administration and some stakeholders who may take a bit of time to understand the role of chaplaincy.

“We may have issues to do with the less time allocated for chaplaincy services and yet the issues of counseling are enormous taking into account the challenges learners face today,” she said. She pointed out that people resist change because they don’t understand what it is all about.

Remain faithful to your oath, Bishop tells police officers

BY MWANGAZA TEAM

Rt. Rev Salesius Mugambi, the Catholic Bishop of Meru, has exhorted the members of the disciplined service to remain faithful to their oath of office and reject vices like corruption which taints their image.

Bishop Mugambi, who is in charge of the disciplined service mandated by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), called upon them to be on guard as the Country prepares for the General election.

“As the members of the disciplined service due to the nature of your work, you might find yourself forgetting God and doing things contrary to your oath of office which you took publicly invoking God. This would lead to self-indulgence in allurements of worldly pleasures, being wayward and having endless

entanglements,” he revealed.

The bishop said at times, members of the disciplined service face vicissitudes which might shake their faith, hope and valor in their duty. This notwithstanding, he urged them to love and support one another.

“Besides, you should not lose sight of God’s continuous presence, protection and guidance in your lives,” he said.

On his part, Embu Diocese Bishop Paul Kariuki lauded the members of the disciplined service for the good work they do of serving the nation.

“Your work calls you to go an extra mile. The other day we lost 20 police officers in Mandera in the line of duty. Be assured of our prayers” he told them.

Fr Peter Kimani, the Principal Chaplain to the Kenya Prisons and the Coordinating

Chaplain to the Disciplined Services, thanked the organizing committee, the service commanders and Fr Domisiano Mwitii, the prisons Chaplain for organizing this year’s thanksgiving celebration.

“Never underestimate an officer who prays,” said Fr Kimani. He revealed that the good things that continue to happen in our Country come as an answer to the prayers we say.

On behalf of the Regional Coordinator, Recho Waithera Kipsoi, thanked the Church for organizing a joint prayer and thanksgiving mass celebration every year to which all look forward.

They spoke during an annual joint prayer and thanksgiving mass celebration for disciplined service at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral recently.



Bishop Paul Kariuki, clergy members, religious sisters and faithful pose for a group photo after the ground breaking ceremony of 2nd Phase of Embu Pastoral center



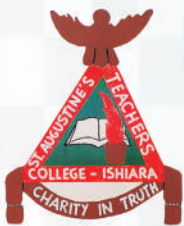
Bishop Paul Kariuki (*in white*) and Bishop Salesius Mugambi of Meru Dioceses with members of the disciplined service pose for a group photo



Bishop Emeritus Alfred Rotich of Military ordinariate at Ss Peter & Paul Cathedral Parish during the world Catholic Education Day



Villagers stroll viewing the destruction caused by massive mudslide at Kianjokoma area



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