



Holy Family Parish Kanamkemer Geneva Education Sponsorship

4th July 2020

Dear St John XXIII Parish
Geneva

Report on 3rd July Sponsored Students Retreat

On 3rd July 2020, your sponsored students gathered in Lodwar for their monthly Corona Lockdown Retreat. This follows the previous meeting held in May 2020 the report of which you already have. All protocols of corona prevention measures were duly observed. Please find attached the attendance list and other documents we would refer to shortly.

The day began with some manual work during which they cleaned up the church compound and watered young trees in the compound. This was aimed at teaching them the dignity of labour, the value of caring for earth our common home, instilling some sense of responsibility and concern for common good as well as showing appreciation to the Catholic Church for their sponsorship. You will find some photos of the students at work.

On their return to the lounge for sessions, they reflected and shared a bit about the manual work and they came up with very fruitful lessons that will help them in the school of life. Life as a school was the theme of the retreat and in the school of life there is no graduation. God, parents and others are teachers in this school of life. Young people have a golden opportunity to learn some lessons in life skills and values during their stay at home these days.

From what we hear from Education Ministry, schools might resume in January 2021 and so students have more months to stay at home. Already, there is a reported rise in the number of teenage pregnancy and sexual abuse cases involving students across the country. The retreat was aimed at educating your sponsored students on staying focused on their dreams by eschewing sexual exploration and substance and drug abuse.

We had two guest speakers for the retreat: Samuel Ngakito and Gregory Apaya both trained youth workers and counsellors. The students were put into five different groups and topics to discuss and report back in the plenary. The topics range from (a) productive use of time during the prolonged stay at

home; (b) managing peer pressure; (c) youth relationship with parents; (d) factors fuelling teenage pregnancy, to (e) responsible home keeping tasks. It was a successful day and the next retreat is fixed for 14th August 2020.

One of the documents we submitted to you from the previous retreat was the list of one thing your sponsored students need to be productive while staying at home due to corona. We did buy the textbooks and calculators and gave them to students towards the end of the June 3rd 2020 retreat. The students who are so happy and excited to have the items, all say a big thank you to all of you and prayed for God to reward your kindness and keep you safe and in good health. You will find documents relating to textbooks in the attached files.

The table below shows the statement of account on how some funds have been utilized:

Description	Amount (Ksh)
Study items for students	Ksh 113,450.00
Retreat facilitation & logistics	Ksh 15,125.00
Parish operational costs	Ksh 235,150.00
Total	Ksh 363,725.00

We deeply appreciate the help your fund offers our students as well as the parish. The parish is in debt and I have attached just for your information the financial status of the parish from mid-April to end of June 2020. Certainly, the parish is urging towards self-reliance but was badly knocked down by the corona lockdown. In the same spirit of sustainability, we will in the course of this month, bring together all ex-sponsored students for the inaugural meeting of their Alumni Association. The goal in the long run is to get them to contribute to a proposed fund that will complement your education support fund and eventually take over the sponsorship when your support ends.

And in the same spirit, we decided that the textbooks and calculators given out to your sponsored students to help them use their corona time at home well, remain property of the church youth education chaplaincy. The items were stamped and given identification numbers with the details of the students in possession of which materials taken and filed.

This is the bit from our end at the moment. The report ends with your view of the attached documents.

Thank you and stay safe!

Yours in Christ,
Fr Livinus Onogwu, sps