



In all things to love and to serve

Irish Jesuit Mission Office Newsletter

Issue 6 - Winter 2011

Contents

- 🌐 Dolly Craft Project
- 🌐 A Word from the Editor
- 🌐 Agricultural Project in Rumbek
- 🌐 Introduction to China in China
- 🌐 Mission News

Vision

Our Vision is a just and humane world based on Gospel values and Ignatian Spirituality.

Core Values

Inspired by the Gospel and sent on mission to the new frontiers of our time, Irish Jesuits and their collaborators are called to:

- 🌐 Become instruments of reconciliation in a divided world.
- 🌐 Build a new world of right relationships with God, with other human beings and with all creation.
- 🌐 See the world from the perspective of the poor and marginalised.
- 🌐 Make the lives of people better in the poorest parts of the world.

To learn more about our missions or to make a donation, please contact:

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Helping Mothers In St. Joseph the Worker Jesuit Parish in Kangemi, Kenya

Paul Kalenzi SJ



Dolly Craft is an income generating facility located in Kangemi Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. It is home to an estimated 200,000 people. Many of the people in the slum have come to Nairobi from rural villages in an effort to gain employment and support their families. The Dolly Craft project primarily addresses the issues of the poor livelihoods of women. Dolly Craft provides employment to women and mothers; the project helps to put food on the table and pay school fees,

A needs assessment was conducted by the regional development office to identify any short-comings of the facilities. The matter was first highlighted by the project manager Sr. Ida. Through the needs assessment it very quickly became evident that the main problem associated with the facility is a lack of space. Observations and interviews revealed that the facility had originally been designed to cater for 16 people. Currently there are 29 staff members and the amount of product output has increased significantly putting great pressure on storage space and the showroom.



Mothers at work at Dolly Craft

as well as covering the basic medical needs of the families. The project produces local handcrafts including dolls, jewellery and bags and also church vestments and other clothing items.

The staff were working too close together making the working environment uncomfortable. A small room that was originally designated as a staff room had to be converted into an extra sewing room. The

A Word from the Editor



The stories we share in our Christmas newsletter are stories of caring and sharing with others and changing lives. 2011 has been a year of extraordinary giving by so many to the most needy in our mission works. It is all the more miraculous because at home in this time of recession

so many share from what they need themselves with those who are in greater need in the different corners of the world. All this changes lives for the better, both for the giver and the receiver. It is a real recognition that we are all members of one family—the family of God.

This spirit of generosity grows out of our history and our faith and above all from the example of our missionaries who left everything to bring the good news to the Far East and Africa. When I visited the graves of Irish Jesuit missionaries in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hong Kong I was struck by the magnanimity, courage and faith of our Companions.

I was touched by the faith and generosity of their families in Ireland who gave them wholeheartedly and not without pain to Christ's mission. Their witness continues to be an inspiration to all, and as we live through the worse consequences of post-Celtic Tiger Ireland, their example and prayers can inspire us to take care of one another and continue to look out for the most needy in our own country and the world.

The Irish Jesuit Mission Office thanks you for your friendship, prayers and support during the past year.

We wish you and all your family a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.



storage of incoming materials and finished products had become a significant problem with simply not enough space available to adequately house all the materials.

It was also revealed that current competition within Nairobi necessitates a better showroom to attract customers.



Dolly Craft New Building

The previous showroom was very small and only a small fraction of the products produced could be displayed. The new building primarily houses a new showroom and storage units. This has freed up space for the expansion of work spaces in the two original buildings.

The expansion of Dolly Craft has enabled the employment and the empowerment of women in Kangemi and with more space, more staff are employed and a proper showroom is used to display the products available. Thus Dolly Craft can assist the mothers of Kangemi to feed their families and work and live with dignity.

The Mission Office along with a number of donations from the readers of our Newsletter and The Messenger Magazine gave a grant of €18,580 to expand the Dolly Craft facility.

To view more pictures of the new building and to hear the stories of the employees working there please visit our website www.jesuitmissions.ie

Paul Kalenzi SJ is Director of Development for the Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa.

St. Peter Claver Agricultural Project In Rumbek, South Sudan - Jesuits Helping A New Country Feed Itself.

Shane Burke



Flying over Rumbek in South Sudan one will observe a scattered arrangement of traditional houses all linked together by dusty paths. Large straight prominent roads, which once had a dual purpose, can also be identified— they served both as road and airstrip.

Rumbek suffered greatly during 22 years of war where the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fought with the Sudanese government-backed army and militias. The devastation caused by the war cannot be overstated. Areas that require immediate attention include agriculture as well as education, infrastructure and medical clinics.

A referendum was held in January 2011 to determine if South Sudan should declare its independence from North Sudan and 98.85% of the population voted for independence. This led to a formal independence on July 9th 2011 and the birth took place of the world's newest country, *The Republic of South Sudan*.

The Jesuits of Eastern Africa are present in Rumbek town and run a computer and ecological centre. In 2010 local land owners approached the Jesuits in search of help. The local landowners occupy land 10 kilometres outside of Rumbek town. They live in a rural location with few services. Their request to the Jesuits was to help them develop their community by building a school. They contributed a section of land for this purpose. After much discussion and consideration it was agreed that a multi educational agricultural institute would be appropriate. The multi educational dynamic

allows the institute to move with the needs of the people and the changing needs of the Nation. A farm in the school would assist the local community to become self reliant and provide a source of food for the institute.

There has been great local participation in forging the first steps of this project. It was agreed that the project would include the construction of a well for the local people allowing them to become better grounded in the area. A borehole has also been built on the institute grounds. The institute grounds have been clearly marked out and a fence erected. There is an air of excitement among the local community as they begin to see development come to their door step, something they could never have imagined after so many years of brutal war.



Digging the well

Close collaboration between the Jesuits and the local chiefs has resulted in the establishment of a plan for the institute. It has been agreed to construct a number of buildings, a meeting room, a Jesuit house for the project manager, a classroom block with an office and store, an income generating building, a water and sanitation block and a large store room. In conjunction with the construction of these buildings will be the development of the agricultural land and a drip irrigation system. Future plans include student dormitories, a child minding centre and a clinic.

The goal of this project is to answer the basic need of the community which is food. The project will initially focus on agriculture

providing food producing skills to the community thus creating a sustainable basis for development. The institute will strive to provide the necessary and relevant skills needed for the community to move in a progressive manner as their new nation grows. Ultimately this initiative is designed to address Millennium Development

Goal 1: *To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.*

The project has received generous funding from many sources including the Irish Jesuit Mission Office and their friends and the Irish Government through Misesan Cara.

Shane Burke is Programmes Officer in the Development Office, Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa.

The goal of this project is to answer the basic need of the community which is food.

China Week- Introduction to China in China

John K. Guiney SJ

China, together with Africa, is a priority for the Society of Jesus in the 21st century. *Since December 1926, 107 Irish Jesuits have worked in China.* Their role has been, and still is, particularly prominent in the Wah Yan schools of Hong Kong and Kowloon. Yet with just nine Irish Jesuits working in Hong Kong at present, the question frequently asked is how can the Irish Jesuit Province and Mission office remain connected with China given the number and age profile of Jesuits in Hong Kong and Ireland today.

The Jesuit Cultural Centre in Beijing invited a number of Jesuits from around the world to spend a week with them in Beijing in order to get to know China in China, and to offer possibilities on how the international Society of Jesus and the Irish Province could respond to the priority of China for the universal Society.



Jesuit Community in Kowloon, Hong Kong

The Director of the Mission Office attended this week long orientation in Beijing.

The most poignant learning from this experience was the realisation that understanding China is a complex matter. It is the third largest and the most populous country in the world. The richness of its culture and history, the diversity of its people and the political and religious traumas it has endured makes China a marvel to wonder about.

It is in many ways a mysterious and secretive country. It is socially open but politically closed. The opening up of its economy in 1978 has made China a leading world force and brought great benefits to its people, yet it has

also contributed to a major environmental crisis: the smog in Beijing is sometimes dangerous for one's health and many of its waterways are severely polluted. It is clear that while China may be described as liberal in economic terms, it has remained a totalitarian state politically, whereby the state party seeks to control everything from information technology to free speech and Church practice. In recent months, the issue of Church practice regarding the appointment of Chinese Bishops has created major tensions between the Chinese Government and the Vatican.

How can the Society of Jesus respond to the needs of China today? The Chinese Province offers a welcome to all to come and see and know a China that is so often misunderstood by the outside world. It invites younger Jesuits from Ireland and elsewhere to come and learn the language for 3 years and to remain open to the possibility of working in China in the longer term.

The Society of Jesus seeks teachers of English, both lay and Jesuit, to work in different locations in China, as well as university teachers from a range of disciplines. China is open to the world today in a way that it never was before.

It is also a time to give thanks to the 107 Irish Jesuits who have served in China – 30 of whom are buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hong Kong and two in mainland China. Their commitment is an outstanding witness and contribution to the Far East mission. We are inspired and grateful for their sacrifices in spreading the Kingdom of God.



Our Lady of China Pray for Us

**China
is open to
the world today
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News from Zambia-Malawi

Greetings from the Zambia-Malawi Province



The Jesuit Mission Office has had a long relationship with the Province of Zambia/Malawi and welcomes their new Provincial **Fr Emmanuel Mumba SJ** to his new mission.

Over the years the Irish Province via the Mission Office has helped provide financial, material and personnel support to the Zambia/Malawi Province. This is acknowledged by Fr Mumba who sends a message of greetings and thanks with the hope that we shall continue working together and strengthening the relationship between our two Provinces.

Kasungu Update by Fr. Pete Henriot SJ

The children in St. Joseph Parish Primary School in Kasungu, Malawi, can look across the fields from their playgrounds to the fields where Loyola Jesuit Secondary School (LJSS) will be located.

They are eager to know when construction of LJSS will begin! Fr. Alojz Podgrajsek, S.J., Project Manager, is working hard with our architect and quantity surveyor to get final descriptions and estimates for "First Phase" construction. We still need funds to enable us to begin something on the ground in early 2012. This would enable us to open for enrolment in late 2013. *Education is not only a right for every child, but also a necessity for any real development in our beautiful country!*



Eager to enrol in the future. Students from St. Joseph Parish Primary School, visiting the site of the future Loyola Jesuit Secondary School, Kasungu, Malawi.

Mission News

- ④ We congratulate our Jubilarians Michael J. Kelly and John Dooley for 50 years in the priesthood; John O'Holohan, Francis Wafer and Peter Carroll 70, 60 and 50 years in the Society respectively.
- ④ A sincere THANK YOU to all our donors, Jesuit works and Communities for your generous donations to the relief of the food crisis in Somalia and Eastern Africa. The money donated enabled the Eastern Africa Province to distribute food and other items of aid among those affected.
- ④ A very enjoyable day was had by all who attended the Annual Missionaries Day Out last September at the Aviva Stadium and afterwards everyone enjoyed getting together for lunch and a catch up with old friends.



Day Out at Aviva Stadium

- ④ The Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Irish Jesuit Missionaries was held on the 13th of November in Milltown Park, the Homily was given by Fr. Michael J. Kelly SJ. Friends and relatives gathered to pray and remember their loved ones.
- ④ The birth of a new country – South Sudan formally breaks away from Sudan to become the UN's 193rd member state. Congratulations!
- ④ Three Irish Jesuits are featured in a set of DVDs, under the title Missionary Stories, produced by the Irish Missionary Union (IMU) and launched on the 13th of October. Frs John Fitzgerald, Conall Ó Cuinn, and Dick Cremens were all interviewed for this major project, which covers the experiences and reflections of 144 missionaries, members of 27 congregations, who between them have worked in 57 countries.



Jesuit Missions Education Basket

ADD AN EXTRA GIFT TO YOUR LIST THIS CHRISTMAS

The Irish Jesuit Mission Office has set up an **Education Basket** where all funds donated will be used to assist poor and disadvantaged students in five Jesuit Schools in Africa.



By making a donation to the Education Basket,
you can purchase **school materials and school fees**
on behalf of the special people on your Christmas list.

We will forward Christmas cards as requested and acknowledge all donations.

Your Name:

Address:

Contact number: Number of cards:.....

Please make cheques payable to: Irish Jesuit Missions
and post to Irish Jesuit Missions, 28 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1

Tel. 01 8366509

Or log on to: **www.jesuitmissions.ie** and request your donation
to be added to the **Education Basket**.

