

Kenya Connections



Immaculate Conception Parish – Arlington, WA
St. John Vianney Mission – Darrington, WA
Christ the King Cathedral – Bungoma, Kenya
St. James – Siritanyi, Kenya

◆ POCKET CHANGE	1
◆ MORE LIVES TOUCHED.....	1
◆ BEYOND THE WELLS	1
◆ AFRICAN CONFERENCE.....	2
◆ ADOPT A STUDENT & PEN PALS	2
◆ GREETINGS FROM KENYA.....	2
◆ SISTER PARISH MEETINGS	2

May 2007 Issue 1



Thank You
for Giving
to the Lord
We are Lives
That Were
Changed!

Pocket Change for Mama Lukelesia's Well

In 2002, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace had a Congregation meeting in London. At this meeting they decided the focus should be on the gift of LIVING WATER. In January 2006, a small group of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace learned of the need for a well in Siritanyi, Kenya, from Lukelesia Saiti. Sister Margaret Parry, CSJP works at the Carmelite Monastery in Seattle where the daughter of Lukelesia, Sister Teresa Benedicta, was transferring for health reasons. As this water need became known, the small group of CSJP decided that THIS WATER PROJECT would be THEIR focus. They made up small cups with the label:

POCKET CHANGE FOR LUKELESIA'S WELL!!!

When Fr. Jim Dalton learned of this endeavor, he brought it to the attention of the Social Concerns committee. They thought it was a very worthwhile project. The committee began distributing the cups with the labels: "Pocket Change for Lukelesia's Well". Dorothy Power was in charge of collecting these monies. Sometimes small amounts were collected and at other times there were \$100's!

"Beyond the Wells"

On August 24th, we had our first meeting of "Beyond the Wells" committee. This project started with well building for Siritanyi, the town of Lukelesia Saiti and family as well as helping the sub-parish of St. James.

At this meeting, the Sister Parish committee was formed: Fr. Jim Dalton, Mary and Michael Van Winkle, Susie Meisch and her daughter, Tesia Lingenfelter, Christy Stensland, Anne Brenaman, Linda Clay and David and Reeny Olsen. During this meeting plans were begun for the visit of Fr. Christopher.

Father Jim Visits Siritanyi

During the project of collecting "pocket change", Fr. Jim was given a donation to visit Kenya!! On May 29th, Fr. Jim left for this life-changing pilgrimage! In Nairobi, Kenya, Fr. Dennis Geng, a Carmelite priest, met Fr. Jim and hosted him at the Carmelite Monastery in Langata, a suburb southeast of Nairobi. Here, Fr. Jim visited the slums of Nairobi where over one million people barely survive in a two square mile area!

Friends met Fr. Jim and drove him to Siritanyi which is near the town of Bungoma. He lived with the Saiti family (no electricity or running water) for five days. Fr. Concorde Akimana, a Kenyan friend of the family, made all the local arrangements. During this visit, Father Jim also met Father Christopher, the pastor of Christ the King Cathedral. Fr. Jim learned that Fr. Christopher would love to visit our Immaculate Conception Parish. Fr. Jim returned to Arlington in early June- alive not only with the SPIRIT but with many plans in his head AND heart!



Woodinville Couple Inspired ...

Fr. Christopher arrived in late August. Many parishioners were involved in hosting and showing Fr. Christopher our lovely area. In early September we had a potluck at Fr. Jim's. At this potluck we had two visitors from Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. One of these visitors was Ken Fabrizio. Ken and his wife, Carol, became acquainted with Teresa Benedicta when he helped around the monastery.

Because of this friendship, Ken wanted to participate in some way with Siritanyi. With a generous donation of a \$20,000 grant, Ken was able to raise enough money for **8,000 mosquito nets!** In February, he went to Siritanyi and handed out all these nets!



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Covenant Signed

During Fr. Christopher's visit, a parish collection took place at our Masses on Sept. 23 and 24. \$19,000 was raised during these collections! Fr. Christopher was delighted but his needs far exceed this amount. We have more work to do!



Along with raising money, during this visit it was decided that Immaculate Conception and Christ the King Cathedral would sign a covenant forming a Sister Parish relationship.

At the Parish Council meeting our Covenant was signed!

On Sept. 27, Fr. Jim took Fr. Christopher to the airport and bid a sad farewell.

After Fr. Christopher reached home, the wells were begun and Fr. Jim was able to wire approximately \$27,000 for the completion of these projects! These combined funds are due to the generosity of many people: donations received through CSPJ, a private donation, and the funds from Immaculate Conception and St. John Vianney.

There are MANY needs

These wells are hand pump wells. These wells furnish clean water for the WHOLE village. However, there are MANY needs throughout the Christ the King diocese: Christ the King school, other sub-parishes, the completion of St. James, Kizito's shop, healthcare, etc. With all these needs, clothes and school supplies were donated from Immaculate Conception parishioners; 20 computers were donated from Holy Rosary of Seattle. Now to get all these items to Kenya!

With a great deal of work, the following took place:

- 1) committee members and helpers weighed and listed ALL the contents of approximately 20 boxes that weighed 636 pounds;
- 2) Michael Van Winkle spent many hours doing all the extensive paper work;
- 3) Ken Christensen, Susie Meisch, The Boeing Co. and Kenyan Airways all worked long hours to get these donations to Nairobi where they were picked up by Fr. Christopher.

THESE DONATIONS WERE FLOWN FREE!

African Ministry Conference

Linda Clay, of our Sister Parish Committee, organized the first African Ministry Conference, hosted by our sister parish committee and held at St. Bridget's in Seattle on April 14, 2007. Ten parishes were represented all of whom have African ties: Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Lesotho and Ghana.

It was an exciting meeting where we all experienced each others' caring and energy for our brothers and sisters of Africa. There is interest in ongoing meetings but that date is yet to be set. Stay Tuned!

Greetings from Kenya

On October 7, Fr. Jim received an email from John W. Simiyu, the Parish Pastoral Chairman for Bungoma. He wrote the following:

Greetings and best wishes from me, the chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council ... The testimony of Fr. Christopher has motivated and inspired us. The signing of the 'Covenant' by both of us has opened a new beginning for our brothers and sisters of the two Parishes taking in consideration the different cultural, social and economic status of our people. May the Lord continue guiding and blessing you and those who are dear to you in all you do.

*With love and best wishes,
John W. Simiyu
Parish Pastoral Chairman*

It is expected that three parish council members will be visiting in June 2007. Our own Parish Council will host our visitors.

Adopt a Student & Pen Pals



The Adopt a Student program has gone well. We now have 26 adopted students. However there are MANY MORE students who would LOVE to be adopted!

Also, through the hard work of Tesia Lingenfelter and Christy Stensland, the Pen Pal program has moved forward. There are approximately 33 pen pals assigned, with another 121 children in Bungoma awaiting pen pals.



Sister Parish Committee Meetings

Second Saturday of Each Month
9:00am – 11:00am in the Library

There are several opportunities for those who would like to share their time and talents.