



DOMINICAN MISSIONARY SISTERS

EMMANUEL CENTRE

JUJA - KALIMONI

KENYA

28th March 2021

Dear Friends,

NEWS FROM KENYA

Receive much greetings and love from Emmanuel Centre. We pray and wish that you are keeping well despite this challenging moments in our life due to covid-19 pandemic. We look back to how life has been for us as Dominican sisters working to help the vulnerable and underprivileged especially here at Emmanuel Centre, and we are overwhelmed by your immerse love and support for our mission over the years. Our lips are full of words of gratitude for the far we have reached all because of you.

When the year 2021 started in January here in Kenya we experienced great joy that after several months of lockdown, the situation with Covid -19 was under control with minimal cases. Measures were put in place to prevent further spread of the virus. This enabled our government to reopen schools and greater part of businesses resumed to normalcy. Our beneficiaries had longed to go back to school and it was such a great joy all in their uniforms big and small marched to school. Thank you our dear donors and sponsors for your generous support to our beneficiaries for you made it possible for the needy children attain their basic needs.

Today we look back to how the school term has been and we thank God that he granted protection to all our beneficiaries enabling them to successfully complete the academic term in good health. During the term we have had beautiful experiences where we celebrated the achievement of our candidates. With new changes in our Kenyan academic calendar, our beneficiaries those in Grade 4, class 8 have successfully written their final exams and those in form 4 are in progress. Live long our dear donors for making it possible that our beneficiially can continue to realize their dreams in life.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? Again this hard question has dawned to us in Kenya today when we are just experiencing the third wave which has hit our country hard with over 2000 deaths and has caused over 17 Million students in universities and tertiary institutions to have schools closed after presidential address to the nation on 26th March 2021. This was necessitated by the reality that pandemic has hit its peak positivity rate in Kenya as well as the highest number of deaths per day. The surge is driven by the capital city of Nairobi which government says has seen a staggering number of cases recently prompting new lockdown measures. The growth in cases is putting unparalleled stress on the health system where



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admission rate has increased by 52%. All is not lost! We thank God that finally vaccination has begun and we all look forward to it.

We await for Easter celebration in great hope as we together remember the experience of Jesus's disciples and connect with our own experience today. "When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they saw that the stone -- which was very big -- had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need to be so amazed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here.

Dear donors, all of us over the world are experiencing big difficulties. We have a lot of questions and we feel great helplessness in the situation we are living in. As Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. "They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'" As the text says the stone was very big. Nothing was clear for them, surely in their hearts they had a lot of uncertainty, sadness and frustration because they had experienced the cruelty, injustice and death of their Master. But as women they did what they could "They bought spices with which to go and anoint him" because their hearts were full of love for their Lord and it gave them strength and courage. They knew that they cannot move the stone but it did not paralyse them although they went to the tomb. And there the action of God took place, the greatest mystery was before the eyes of the women, the great stone had been moved, Jesus was not there. As the angel said: "There is no need to be so amazed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him". Now they have to see the new reality and to be witnesses of the resurrection. Now they are called to announce that after dead there is a new life and that the dead does not have the last word. This is our mission too: announce the Good News.

Today we announce the good news of hope in future for our beneficiaries and we owe you a very big THANK YOU for your continued generous support. May God bless you.

Yours,

Sr. Sellah Ireri OP.