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in three Continents

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF RWANDA-CYANGUGU DIOCESE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
EV.KIRCHENKREIS TRIER**

PARTNERSHIP NEWS LETTER JULY 2023



1 Corinthians 3:9 "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building"

UPADTES ABOUT SINGLE MOTHERS PROGRAM

Within the first half of the year (January to June 2023) the single mothers projects has graduated two groups of 13 from Karangiro Centre and 17 from Kamembe town Center (the one that operates in the single mothers house next to the Cathedral)

At Kamembe town single mothers Centre graduation took place 28th March after six months training in tailoring. Out of the 17, fourteen of them managed to get 50% as their contribution of buying sewing machines. The program contributed another 50% for them to be able to graduate with startup kits for them to use the acquired skills to earn a leaving. Three of them failed to raise 50% of the cost of the sewing machine but they graduated with others and received their certificates. They are given more ample time to raise the funds and they will be supported to have startup tool kits together with the next batch of grandaunts. For example, we distributed 18 sewing machines at Kamembe town Single mothers union Centre 14 of which were given to the new grandaunts and 4 were given to graduates of last year who had failed to raise 50% of the total cost of the sewing machine at the time of graduation but have been to raise it this year.



Top right single mothers at Kamembe town Centre receiving counsel and congratulatory messages from the Mothers union leadership and the local government representatives. On the left that graduates are posing with their sewing machines (startup kits)

Karangiro/Mururu centre started with fifteen single mothers but thirteen only graduated. Two single mothers out of the fifteen that had registered dropped out. The government leaders appreciated the work done the Church to support the vulnerable single mothers most of whom were teenagers. Below are some of the photos that were taken during the graduation day at Karangiro/Mururu Centre:



In the photo below (on the left) are the single mothers in Karangiro Center posing with their products on the graduation day. On the right are the single mothers at Kamembe Centre posing with their products on the graduation day.



About Bugarama Valley Single mothers' training Centre

After the graduation of the first batch at Karangiro/Mururru Centre, the diocesan administration decided to shift the sewing machines to Bugarama Valley in May this year to start a new Centre because Bugarama valley was identified to have a bigger problem of single mothers that needed to be trained. In the whole of Cyangugu region, statistics show that Bugarama valley (Muganza and Bugarama sectors) has the highest number of teenage pregnancies. Another factor that was considered was the fact that the Diocesan program is to have one single mothers training Centre in every Archdeaconry and Bugarama Archdeaconry

had no single mothers' training Centre where as Karangiro and Kamembe Single mothers' training centers were in the same Archdeaconry (just 8.7 Kilometres apart). Having considered that more cases identified in Karangiro can travel to Kamembe Single mothers Centre, the sewing machines were shifted to Bugarama which is 45 kilometers away from Kamembe Centre.



In addition to the machines that were transferred from Karangiro, more machines were bought to ensure that the Centre in Bugarama is well equipped as that of Kamembe town. The single mothers' group in Bugarama requested for some few knitting machines in addition to the sewing ones such that they train in diverse skills. In the photos on the left are the single mothers in Bugarama Valley center excited after receiving the sewing machines.

Some single mothers sponsored to continue their formal education in Secondary schools



As part of empowerment, the Diocese has always supported the single mothers who are committed to resume their formal education. In the photo on the left is Dina (in uniform) who got pregnant when she was fourteen years old, she kept quiet until gave birth to a baby boy in bush and the parent came to know that after three days. So she joined our single mothers program because she like to study and her parents are not able to take her back to school due to poverty, we did advocacy for her and now the district is supporting her by paying school fees.

In the Photo below is Joselyn who is sitting the national exams at Jill Barham Technical secondary school. She is a born again Christian, active in choir and was confirmed by Rt. Rev Karemera Francis on 11/07/2023. On the right, Joselyn is posing with Rev. Berthe after confirmation and on the left, Bishop Francis was laying hands on her during the confirmation service.



RETREAT FOR AWARENESS CRAETION AMONG THE TEENAGE GIRLS

The mothers union office has embarked on sexual reproductive health training is schools. They have started with the Church founded schools but will extend the services even to the non-Church founded schools especially in parts of Cyangugu where there is a prevalent high rate of teenage pregnancies. In the photos is on the left is the Mothers Union President Evermerld doing sexual reproductive health training alongside counseling, doing antidrug abuse campaign and bible teaching to girls in one of the Church founded schools.



In the photo below is the mothers’ union worker Rev Berthe doing the same training in a different school and on the right is Rev Ephraim doing the awareness creation campaign in Gashonga Parish:



PARENTS RETREAT AND THEIR SINGLE MOTHER CHILDREN

In counseling sessions, it was discovered that many parents do not have time to share with their children life challenges, even children fear to share with their parents about their feelings, expectations, vision and get time and conducive environment to ask what they don't understand. This has always caused trauma among the single mothers hence worsening their situation psychologically, socially, economically and spiritually. We conducted a 2 days retreat of parents and their daughters (single mothers) where parents repented and some of single mothers found the platform to apologize to their parents. Below are some of the photos that were taken during the retreat of single mothers and their parents:



Clementine and her father in the retreat got time to talk about the problem of her teenage pregnancy and single motherhood for the first time.



Clementine father is ready to support her care for the child and to maintain the sewing machine for it to generate good income. Clementine also committed herself to change her behavior by relating well with her parents and living a responsible life.

Another Single Mother Officially Married



In our graduated groups, we had a civil marriage of one beneficiary Kanyanya which took place on 30th March 2023. After being recruited in the program, she changed her behavior because of training and counseling she was given. All this built her self-esteem and gave her hope for a brighter future. Finally she was able to get a young man who loved her and they did an official marriage as they wait for the church wedding. In the photos on the left is Kanyana, her husband and some of the family members.

NEWS ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP SUNDAY

As it has been since the start of the partnership, every third week of June there is a celebration of the partnership Sunday in Anglican Church of Rwanda - Cyangugu Diocese and in Ev.Kirchenkreis Trier. The partnership Sunday was celebrated in all parishes of EAR Cyangugu Diocese on 18/06/2022. The liturgy that was used this year was prepared by Ev. Kirchenkreis Trier and the theme of the partnership service was “Water is Life”.

Below are some of the photos that show how the partnership Sunday was celebrated with excitement in different Parishes.



Top left and left are the photos taken from Bweyeye Parish which has the biggest congregation in the whole Diocese. Top right is the Photo taken from Cyato Parish.



On the left is the photo of the Alter at the Cathedral taken during the service on the partnership Sunday as Bishop was updating the congregation about the partnership between Ev.Kirchenkreis Trier and the Diocese.

Below (left) is celebration at Nyenji Parish and on the right is celebration at Gashonga parish.



NEWS ABOUT MAY 2023 HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS IN RWANDA

A bit of experience of heavy rains and floods in some part of Cyangugu.

In May 2023 the North Western Part of Rwanda was affected by floods and over a hundred people died and several others lost property. Much as Cyangugu did not have a worst experience of heavy floods that claimed a lot of lives and property as it was the case in the North Western Part of Rwanda, the Bugarama valley famous for rice farming experiences some floods. Below are some of the photos showing the extent of floods experiences in Cyangugu –Bugarama Valley.



No house was destroyed completely but some rice farms and house hold utensils were destroyed. The local government tried to relocated people who were staying on farms to go to occupy the less risk zones and called upon different stakeholders to give different kinds of support.



With the support from UEM, the Diocese supported by buying Mattresses and Mats to some of the relocated house households.





In the photos above and on the left is the Diocesan head of social response and Diaconia delivering mattresses to some of the relocated household members.

A few other homes in Bweyeye Parish-Bweyeye Sector who especially those staying near Nyungwe Forest also received very heavy rains that destroyed some of their houses. The Diocese supported one of them to renovate her house.

In the photos below (Left) is NYIRANSABIMANA Edisah from Bweyeye with her children whose house was destroyed by heavy rain. On the right Edisah very happy after being supported with new iron sheets to construct a new house supported by the Diocesan head office working hand in hand with the local Parish.



OTHER UPDATES ABOUT CYANGUGU DIOCESE



The Diocesan Training Centre for Evangelism and Discipleship that has been training lay readers and in service pastors signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 06/07/2023 with East African Christian College to issue a two years modular Course called “Testimonial in Christian Ministry”. On the left is the photo of the head of the training Center and the principal of EACC shaking hands after signing the MOU. This is a blessing to Cyangugu Diocese because the church is growing and needs trained evangelists to work with the university graduate theologians as required by the government.

Commissioning of the First Batch of Lay Readers in Cyangugu Diocese.

In the Anglican Church structure there are lay readers who are supposed to undertake a two years training and then after be officially commissioned to do different activities supporting the pastors. On 16th July is when the Bishop Commissioned the first batch of 36 lay readers most of whom have been trained from the Diocesan Training Centre for evangelism and Discipleship. After approval of the Diocesan council, in the same service of 16th July the Bishop installed four senior pastors as Canons in recognition of their faithful, valuable and exemplary long service in the Church. The bishop also bestowed an honorary title of canon to one non ordained female Christian in recognition of her demonstrated and exemplary contribution to the Church. In the Photo below (Left) is the Bishop with the lay readers after the commissioning service at Christ the king cathedral, and on the right is the existing Canon welcoming other senior pastors to whom the title of Canon has been bestowed.



Youth Ministry in Cyangugu Diocese

The youth ministry has remained a priority in the interventions of EAR Cyangugu Diocese to empower the young generation as the future leaders of the church. In the photo below are the youth in Bweyeye Sector posing with their certificates after one year vocational training in Masonry, electricity and some in tailoring.



New members of the youth union in a new Parish called Nyarushisi.



Below are the youth posing with their cards after swearing to wait having sex until they are officially married. On the right is the Bishop posing with members of the Boys and Girls Brigade at Bweyeye Parish.



Mass Weddings in Different Parishes

The Diocese has embarked on Christian family building as “Upholding biblical family values” is part of the Diocesan core values. The church has started from the grass root church to mobilise and teach men and women who are not officially married and working with the local government, over 90 couples have been wedded in the church after the civil marriage in this year. In Bweyeye sector, there was a mass wedding of 72 couples on 24/06/2023. Below are some of the photos that were taken during the mass wedding in Bweyeye Parish:



On the extreme left is tens of brides and bridegrooms on the mass wedding day inside Bweyeye parish. In the middle is the photo taken mass wedding at Gshonga Parish.



The Church in Cyangugu is growing first with new Church buildings being put up. In this year alone, we have officially opened two new Churches are under construction. The numbers of Church members have increased by 2300 people since mid-last year to mid this year. Above is one rural church buildings which that was officially opened in April this year. On the left is another new Church building under construction in Nyamsheke town.

Prayer Requests:

1. Funds to train more clergy to support the continued Church growth through contextual and transformational Discipleship in Cyangugu Diocese.
2. Continued church growth and unity of the world wide church as one body of Christ.
3. Continued mindset change among parents and community members to love and support their children who fall victims of teenage pregnancies.
4. Continued Unity and Reconciliation in Rwanda
5. Peace in the world.

GOD BLESS YOU

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