

HISTORY OF MKOHA PARISH

Introduction

Our beloved guests from Germany – Dipbach parish, we are very much conscious of the honor you have accorded to us visiting Mkooha parish. We acknowledge and thank you more sincerely for this very historical event.

We give thanks to His Excellence Bishop John C. Ndimbo for his visit to Dipbach – Germany last year. We note that during His visit to your Parish last year, He became our spokesman and there upon, He invited you to come to our diocese. In response to His invitation, you didn't hastate to visit and now you are in our diocese – parish Mkooha.

We also thank Him for having decided that you come to Mkooha. Your excellence, we thank you for your paternal love to Mkooha Parish.

We extend this special appreciation and acknowledgement because Mkooha Parish is one of among the parishes of Mbinga diocese that appears as if being isolated from the rest due to her geographical position but also her people's socio economic status. Indeed, I once again insist, your visit has uplifted the faithful in a number of aspects.

NOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF MKOHA PARISH

Before, Mkooha Parish was the biggest outstation of the mother Parish Maguu. It was established in 1957 by Fr. Joseph dam a German Benedictine missionary priest. However, he was not able to bring it to its completion. Later on another German Benedictine missionary Fr. Lukas Angemaire completed the work of building the church as it is seen today just adjacent the priests' house. In 2000 Mkooha outstation was canonically declared having a parish status with Fr. Lotar chale being the first In charge of it.

GROWTH, ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGES

From 2000 to 2018, Mkooha Parish has grown but also has faced challenges. It has nine (9) outstations with the population of 7202 Catholics, 6 Muslims and 295 of other denominations, making the total of 7,503.

Dear and honorable visitors, in the parish there are government institutions namely, one secondary school, three primary schools and one dispensary. According to the information briefed to us by the Bishop, it seems the size of your Parish is nearly like ours.

During this period of its existence as a parish, Mkooha Parish has:

1. Increase of the number of Catholics
2. Small Christian communities
3. Increase of outstations
4. Construction of the new church which lasted from 1996 to 2015
5. Environmental maintenance by planting trees worst of 5000 around the parish
6. Biblical seminars
7. Seminars concerning family and marriage life
8. Continuing furnishing the church
9. Building churches in the outstations

A part from these achievements, the parish has gone and is continuing going through challenges. Of these, the following are but only a few:

1. Lack of reliable, clean and safe water supply
2. Lack of priests' decent residential house and parish offices
3. Lack of sister's house – sister's convent
4. Lack of kindergarten for our children

5. Lack of reliable means of transport for socio- pastoral activities

Dear and honorable visitors, these challenges threaten the development of both spiritual and social well being of the Parishners

Solution to these challenges, would have the following impact to the faithful and the people at large.

- i. Reduction of water borne diseases
- ii. Improved gardening for the parish and the parishners.
- iii. Enhanced formation of the youth
- iv. Training and formation of children in the kindergarten
- v. Formation and catechetical instruction in school and out of schools.
- vi. Women development activities improved by the presence of sisters.
- vii. Socio-pastoral activities improved by reliable means of transport.

PLANS AHEAD OR WAY FORWARD

Towards facing these challenges, we are guided by the following strategic plan.

Phase I: 2018 – 2023

- i. Water supply project
- ii. Construction of priests' residential house and offices

Note:- In this line we have already consulted the engineers to do survey for the source of water and the work is continuing.

- In regard to the construction of priests' residential house and offices, the faithful have already layered 145000 bricks but the aim is laying 400,000 bricks. But also stones for the foundation have already been prepared.

Phase II: 2024 – 2029

- i. Construction of sisters' house
- ii. Construction of kindergarten

NB: Reliable means of transport
this item is being worked upon throughout the faces.

CONCLUSION

Once again we appreciate your visit to Mkoha parish. Thanks you very much. Mkoha parish is no longer an Island. Mkoha is a meeting point of the family of God from both parishes,

Dipbach and Mkoha; and then from the diocese of Wurzburg and Mbinga, from Germany and Tanzania. Indeed we are Catholics in the real sense.

On behalf of the Parishners of Mkoha, kindly accept the following items as token of appreciation for the valuable visit to us.

May good Lord continue to love and bless you so abundantly? Each time keep on remembering Mkoha. Never forget Mkoha.

Thank you.

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Fr. Orestes Anno Nditi
Parish Priest

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Julius Nchimbi
chairman of the Laity

PAROKIA MKOHA
KATORIKI

Submitted in May 23rd 2018