



# Missionary Fraternity of Mary Newsletter

*And the seed was sown in fertile land*

20 years of  
Evangelization at St.  
Mary Help of Christians  
Mission, Langobaya,  
Malindi Diocese, Kenya,  
East Africa



Asanteni Sana kwa msaada  
yenu!!!  
Thanks for your support!!!

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In 2001, the Fraternity began its mission of evangelization in the Coast province of Kenya, 38 miles from the town of Malindi in the Diocese of Malindi. This occurred at the same time that Malindi was established as a new diocese in the coast of Kenya. Bishop Francis Baldacchino OFM Cap. (RIP), the first bishop of the diocese had no local clergy and was in a great need of missionary priests to help him in his apostolate. The St. Paul community, a new community of priests (from Spain), working with bishop Baldacchino in Kenya, advised that he look to Central America for help, particularly to the Missionary Fraternity of Mary. He extended an invitation to us to minister in his new diocese and we embraced that invitation with great love.

Initially, Fraternity priests arrived at the Wema Catholic Mission, Malindi, then to Mere and Langobaya, Malindi. This mission started with a catechist and four families who led catechesis in a small mud hut classroom at the Langobaya Public Primary School. Prior to our arrival and due to the shortage of priests mass was celebrated there only twice per year.

## Mary Help of Christians Catholic Mission

Upon their arrival in Kenya our priests were immediately taught to speak the Swahili language. Soon thereafter two priests were sent to Langobaya, where they rented a house at the water service staff headquarters. It was at this time that the Bishop established a mission in Langobaya under the patronage of St. Mary Help of Christians. This devotion to Mary was suggested by the Fraternity priests and was well accepted by the Catholic faithful among the Guiriama tribe whom they served. Spiritual and human development outreach has enriched the community life of the Church in Langobaya. Parishioners gather together to praise God, celebrate the Eucharist and help each other much like the first Christian communities did.



**In this picture you can appreciate the active and enthusiastic Catholic faith expressed in a procession of St. Mary Help of Christians in Langobaya Mission, Malindi Diocese.**

In 2003 with the financial help of local Christians and from abroad the construction of the mission church and the priests' residence started and was completed in 2004. After more than 10 years operation as a mission, in 2015 Bishop Emmanuel Barbara established Langobaya as a parish. Fr. Alejandro Umul, Fraternity Priest from Guatemala was installed as its first pastor. Currently the parish has 157 active families with 18 small Christian Communities. There are seven different worship sites and each location has its own chapel where Sunday mass is celebrated. As the parish continues to grow the Fraternity priests continue to serve many groups by conducting workshops, seminars, catechesis, retreats and trips to pilgrimage sites in the country.





The presence and the work of our missionary priests in Langobaya has been a blessing to the locals. Our priests have been a witness to the people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus not only in liturgical activities but in the daily challenges of life of our parishioners.

**Young parishioners in Langobaya, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Vicar General of the Diocese.**



Parish youth embrace a strong Catholic identity. Although they have to deal with poverty and many other issues, there is always hope for a better life.

Many locals are converting to the Catholic faith.

The Mission in Kenya's main focus is to save souls but also to save lives.

**A procession with the Holy Sacrament on the streets of Langobaya.**



At Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, there are different projects and programs to support the people in their many needs.

St. Agnes Tailoring School is one of the projects to support women with tailoring skills to help them become self sufficient. Sponsorship for orphans and food for work are programs that help relieve the burdens of daily life.

Through the hard work of the priests and church leaders in education, the parish has a Catholic school with 351 students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Students come from poor families in Langobaya and neighboring villages.



St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School also provides daily meals for its students, many who walk each day from neighboring villages. The main goal is to provide quality education so as to improve their style of life and become agents of change in the Kenyan society.

There are many more good things happening in Kenya but hopefully this short article helps you understand how living the gospel message is truly "THE WAY!" Thank you for your support of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary. You are in our prayers. Please, pray for the missions!

### Other News

**United States—** God willing, two additional priests will shortly have their visa interviews at the USA Embassy in Guatemala. Upon issuance of the visas they will then travel to serve in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Venezuela—** The presence of the Fraternity continues to be strong in these challenging missions. Please pray for the perseverance of our priests in this country.

**Kenya—**The number of Christian Catholics continues to grow.