

JULY 2016 UPDATES FROM RWAZA PARISH TO HOLY ANGELS CHURCH.

by

Father Robert Iryumugabe

Member of the Rwaza Parish Twinning Committee

1. About me:



Fr. Robert Iryumugabe holding a holy picture to be offered to a Rwaza child

Fr. Robert Iryumugabe was born on November 14, 1984. His Dad, Viateur Iryumugabe and his mother Monique Nyirabanzi were staunch Catholics. As was elder brother, Richard Hamenyimana. After his Grade School, the then Robert Iryumugabe was trained as a future priest; for High School, he went to Nkumba minor Seminary; for Major seminary, he went respectively to Rutongo, then to Kabgayi, and finally to Nyakibanda. He was ordained to Priesthood on July 28, 2013. He has currently been affected as a Parish Priest at the Rwaza Parish.

The updates today will focus on the meeting of the Rwaza Parish twinning Committee held on Sunday June 26, 2016:

I. **Agenda:**

- Gratitude to Holy Angels Church of Dayton, Ohio, USA.
- Life and perspectives of the Rwaza Parish
- Miscellaneous.

II. **Were present:**

- Father Narcisse Ngirimana: Passtor.
- Father Robert Iryumugabe: Education supervisor.
- Father Epimaque Rafiki: Accounting and Management.
- Mr. Protais Sibomana: Responsible of the Rwaza Health Center;
- Mr. Wellars Sinamenye: President of the Remera P:astoral center and teacher at the Remera Schools.
- Ms. Bernadette Nyirakamana: Principal of Kageyo Schools
- Ms. Delphine Akayezu: Manager of the house containing holy objects and statues.

III. **Were absent and excused:**

- Sister Laetitia Mukangwije: Principal; Our Lady of the apostles High School
- Mr. Etienne Bwirezirye: Retired Teacher.

2. Discussions:

a. Gratitude to the Parishioners of the Holy angels Church of Dayton

The Rwaza Pastor informed the committee that the Holy Angels church of Dayton had sent to Rwaza a financial help of \$6,000 meant for the Rwaza Water Project. All the members of the committee expressed a sense of hope and a dream come true; thanks to that important help, the pipelines and reservoirs are going to be repaired; clean and safe water is coming back to the Parish and its different institutions: Rwaza Healthcare Center; Benebikira (“Sisters devoted to the Holy Mother”) Convent; Rwaza Schools including especially Grade School I and Grade school II; Rectory and other services. The committee remembered that it is not the first time that the Holy Angels Church of Dayton has cared about the Rwaza Parish: It was the case when Rwaza had to repair and reshape the roof of the Main Church; Holy Angels had then intervened in providing a substantive financial support to replace the roof in asbestos; they sent us also holy objects that help us to shore up our faith like the rosaries, laptops, different school materials for our students of Grade and High schools. They have also given us the host holders to bring the sacrament of communion to the homebound, the sick and the elderly.

Most importantly, the parishioners of Holy Angels keep us in their Mass intentions every single Sunday as we were told by the students from Rwaza who integrated recently their studies at the University of Dayton. They do not feel strangers in the Holy Angels Church, and one of these students is even involved in the Holy Angels choir that sings in the noon Mass.

The members of the committee exploded in thanksgiving to thank Ggod for having given to the Rwaza Parish friends and partners who really cared for the Rwaza parishioners not only by uplifting life in Rwaza Parish but also offering the comfort to the children of Rwaza joining the Dayton area of USA. Whereupon, pledge was to continue praying the almighty for our twinning relationships to prosper.

b. Life and perspectives for the future n the Rwaza Parish

I. Rwaza as a site of Diocesan Pilgrimage.

By decree from the Most Reverend Vincent Harorimana, Bishop of the Ruhengeri Diocese, Rwaza Parish has become the site of Pilgrimage with a string of Indulgence attached to it for the Christians who undertake such a holy visit. We have been happy ever since to welcome all the Christians coming visiting our parish. Especially in this year of mercy, we enrich each other about the love the Lord taught us, and about the body or spiritual works each one of us has to catch up with His Holiness Pope Francis in the field of Mercy.

II. Constructions in the Parish:

A. Replacement of the roofs in asbestos.

The replacement of the asbestos did not stop with the roof of the main church; the work went on to replace also the asbestos covering the rest of the buildings which span the parish.

B. Chapels:

1. The chapel of the Holy Mother, initially placed close to the Healthcare Center has been modified. The new chapel that was built in the same spot was dedicated to the first Missionaries who founded the Rwaza Parish and it will contain also the statue of the Holy Mother.
2. A number of pastoral centers have also undertaken to build their own chapels through the efforts of their own Christians' efforts.. These pastoral centers are Kageyo (Bushoka Chapel), Gashaki (Burembo Chapel) and Rwaza (Nyarugando Chapel)

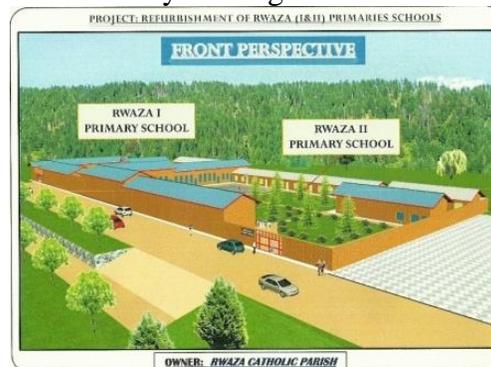
C. Grade Schools I and II:

The deterioration:



Overview of classes inside each class outside class; roof

The plan established by the Engineer:



The estimates are very high but the parish is scrambling to find ways and means to at least to start renovating the inside of classes (floor,

walls, ceiling etc..) and stave off the conditions that threaten the life the children in the immediate future.

D. St. Joseph Center

St. Joseph Center is a center was created to deal with hospitality of all the people who visit our Parish whether they stay or not for sometimes. The parish is thinking to update it and make it relevant to the human needs of our times especially concerning bar and restaurant, housing, conference room and so forth.

III. Mary Queen of the Angels School

This school was a private school created and controlled directly by the Parish. That school is currently closed following the recommendations of the responsible of Education of our country. These responsible have set forth the conditions that the rooms meant to be classrooms should fulfill to make a valid school. The parish is busy looking forward to have these conditions in view to reopen the school.

IV. Sacraments

As it was said in another development of our twinning relationships, the Rwaza Parishioners are increasing in number and Christian commitment visible especially in the celebration of Sacraments:

1. Marriage: 70 couples of young girls and young men will say “Yes” to each other shortly, before the Altar in the Sacrament of Marriage.
2. Confirmation; 1,400 young people.
3. First Communion will be celebrated by 1,300 children.
4. Baptism: 50 babies will receive the Sacrament.
4. Ordination to Priesthood: This Sacrament will be administered to Laurien Nyilibakwe, a native of Rwaza Parish in the Pastoral Center of Remera. He will be ordained as a Jesuit on August 20, 2016 and will celebrate his first Mass at the Remera Pastoral Center on August 28, 2016.

c. Miscellaneous:

- I. August 15, 2016: The Day of Our Lady of the Assumption, patron Saint of the Rwaza Parish. On that day, our Parish will celebrate the 113th anniversary since our parish was founded in 1903.
- II. Two of the pastoral centers will celebrate their 100th Jubilee; these centers are Kageyo Pastoral Center and Gashaki Pastoral Center.
- III. Rwaza Parish has been given a new priest who will be supervising the Accounting and the Management t of the Parish. His name is Epimaque Rafiki, freshly arrived from Zambia.

- IV. Delphine Akayezu, a member of the Rwaza Twinning committee, has been given a new function; she will be the Accounting Secretary of the Parish. She is taking classes in Accounting at a local University to fit accurately these new functions.
- V. Father Narcisse Ngirimana, the Rwaza Parish Pastor, has informed the committee about the progress of the ailment he has been suffering from. He is regularly taking his medicines and straining himself to the kinesiotherapy sessions every single day.

d. Mass intentions:

- Almighty God, may You continue to bless our twinning relationships with the Church of Holy Angels; may these relationships produce meaningful fruits for the fulfilment of your kingdom on earth.
- Almighty God, may You bless Fr. Narcisse with a prompt recovery from the ailment he is suffering from.
- Almighty Lord, May You bless the Parishioners of Holy Angels for their constant caring attention to us and the children from Rwaza who have found you in their Church.

May God bless you and bless our twinning relationships.

Fr. Robert Iryumugabe

On behalf of the Rwaza Twinning Committee:

Fr. Narcisse Ngirimana	Fr. Robert Iryumugabe	Ernest Ngiruwonsanga	Sister Laetitia Mukangwije	Bernadette Nyirakamana	Fr. Epimaque Rafiki.
Germaine Mukamana	Delphine Akayezu	Protais Sibomana	Wellars Sinamenye	Etienne Bwirezirye	

