

Bishop's July Message



Bishop's July Message

Dear Catholic Faithful of the Gizo Diocese, As we welcome our WAVES back on the AIR I pray that you may be in good health. Here are our concerns and commitment in the hope Covid will allow us to work together.

Covid awareness: We are still in covid alert, let us give all our cooperation to the authorities guiding us through the pandemic, I urge all parishes to organize preparation encounters to prevent and to fight the virus in case it comes. As we try to be more aware of our role to keep ourselves and our environment clean, as we strive to keep social distancing, let us also not forget the value of personal and community prayer.

Our Diocesan Jubilee year: We chose to start the celebrations this year which marks the episcopal ordinations anniversaries of two bishops who built the diocese from the beginning: the Diamond Jubilee (60 years) of Bishop Eusebius Crawford, OP (May 8, 1960) and the silver jubilee (25th anniversary) of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Bernard O'Gredy, OP. (May 19 1995) Actually our diocese became a Vicariate Apostolic of Western Solomons on July 15, 1959 (61 years Ago) It became a full diocese on November 5, 1966 (54 years ago). We set some programs for this event for this year:

Training for lay catholic leaders

2020: being the second year of the LAYTY FORMED AND SENT FOR A MISSION we will give our diocese a gift of more formation for our lay people Activities have been set in spite of the coronavirus, we will visit our parishes and provide formation programs for all leaders of the parish we carry a paschal candle in all parishes of the Diocese and renew our commitment to be not jus 8 parishes but ONE CHURCH

Vocations:

We NEED to work harder and pray more for vocation: Our diocese need vocations: we want to give our diocese a GREAT GIFT: good priests

A diocese without seminarians will have no future priests, it has no future

Our vocations at the Holy Name Seminary are only 3 in Holy Name and 2 in NAC

This does not speak well of our strategy for vocation recruitment. We are all responsible to discern the signs of vocation in our village and schools (good health, closeness to the parish activities and Parish Priest, hardworking, prayerful, form 6 graduate - exceptionally form 5 too –

We are all responsible to care for our church and to pray for vocations and to promote them with conviction and courage.

The sin of Neglect: We want to be more committed to the mission given to us

Negligence, failing to do what we are supposed to do because it is our mission as baptized people, Indifference, they are BIG SINS: failure of commitment of one affects everybody

THE NOTHING PEOPLE - None-volunteer

They do not lie; they just neglect to tell the truth They do not take; they simply cannot bring themselves to give

They do not steal; they simply 'take'

They will not pull you down; they will let you pull them up, and let that pull you down

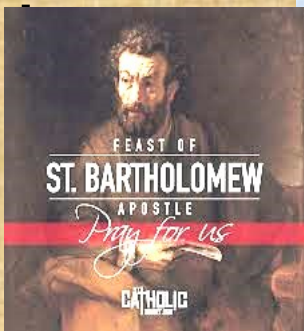
They do not hurt you; they merely will not help you, they merely cannot love you

They are the nothing people; the sin of omission folk; The neither-good-nor-bad, and-therefore-the worse Because the good at least keep busy trying, and the bad try as hard.

Both have the character, that comes from caring, action, and conviction

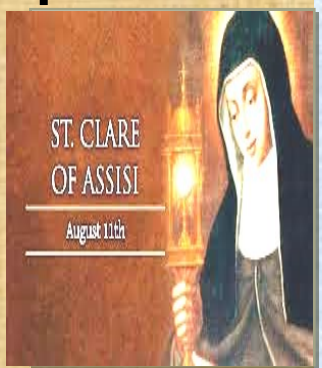
So give me every time an honest sinner, or even a saint But, God and Satan, get together, and protect me from the nothing people. (Anon)

Let us all be COMMITTED as baptized, formed and sent to do HIS mission, here, now, together For you a bishop with you a brother who loves you with a "solo heart made in Italy"



Inside this Issue?

- 1 Bishop's Pastoral Message
- 2 Diocese Program
- 3 Diocese of Gizo History
- 4 Blessing of Nusa-Bosco
- 5 Pilgrimage to holy land
- 6 Our Schools
- 7 Christ the King
- 8 News in Bits
- 9 Legion of Mary
- 10 Education for life





Yearly THEME

'Formed for Mission'



DIOCESE PROGRAMS COM- ING UP FOR THE YEAR 2020

Come & see program at Moli 7th—10th July

**Lay apostolate training at Sirovanga
21st—24th July**

**Lay apostolate training at Moli
27th—30th July**

**Lay apostolate training for St Eusebius and
Sacred Heart parish 7th—8th August venue
yet to be decided**

**Sunday school teachers training on liturgy at
Moli 24th—28th August**

**Lay apostolate training St Peter Gizo
4th—6th September**

**Natural family planning and moral issues
training at Nila 14th—17th September**

**Youth Encounter Follow Up Northern Deanary
at Moli 9th—11th October**

**Lay apostolate training at Nila
12th—15 October**

Priest meeting 26—29th October

Media diocese of Gizo



Welcome!!! back to our monthly newsletter, it is a joy again to be back in the office and sharing and updating you all that is happening in and around our diocese especially at this pandemic period of Covid-19.

Through media (Newsletter, radio etc) we can feel the sense of security, belonging, the sense of unity or the sense of uniformity which can be one source of strength to us all in our missions in the various places we assigned at this trouble time.

We journey in one faith administered and expressed by individuals of different cultures, backgrounds, races and so forth, that is the strength, richness and the uniqueness of our diocese.

It is important yet joyfull, now that the office is open again despite the side effects of Covid-19 to receive stories from you as parish priests, media personals or any interested parishioners. Voruvoru or Christ the King parish sets a good example and challenges us other parishes to do the same in sending news to the diocese.

There is no strict criteria or form in which you are to write, so long as your stories touches the spirituality, social, economic and physical aspect of your community or parish, we welcome your article.

Don't hesitate to send your article to media@catholicgizo.org You can also send it through text messages through 7103028.

Let us kept informed on how we organise things, endure difficulties, how we solve our problems or how we achieve our goals. I believe that by doing so we create a story that is vital that can be a source of inspiration for the church of today and tomorrow.

Diocese Of Gizo

The Diocese of Gizo is one of three Dioceses in the Solomon Islands and was formed from the Vicariates of North and South Solomons in the early 1960s. It encompasses three Provinces: Choiseul, Santa Isabel and the Western Province. It spreads over an area of 12,600 square kilometres, populated by 133,000 people, of whom approximately 16,459 are Catholics.

There are a few larger settlements. Gizo, a town of 7,000 is the headquarters of the Diocese and is an administrative centre for the Western Province. Noro, the official overseas port for the area, has a fish cannery and other light industry. At Ringi Cove is one of the few sustainable logging industries in the Solomons, and Taro, the Provincial Centre for Choiseul also is a small administrative centre. Otherwise, most of the people of this area live in small coastal villages, accessible only by outboard powered canoes. In 1956 the first group of Australian Dominicans arrived to assume responsibility for the Diocese of Gizo which was created on the 15th of November 1956. The first Bishop was Eusebius John Crawford OP who was appointed Bishop on the 15 Nov 1966 and retired on the 3rd of February 1995.

Father Cyril O'Grady OP was ordained Bishop on the 3rd of February 1995 and appointed as the Bishop of Gizo on the 19th of May 1995. Most priests of the Diocese are locally trained Dominicans and Diocesan clergy from the local communities. Dominican nuns also help to serve the needs of the local communities, with contributions as teachers, nurses, and in a variety of pastoral positions. The early mission was well assisted by

many men and women volunteers from other countries like Australia and New Zealand. Now all sisters working in the Diocese are from local communities. The Diocese consists of six parishes, all of them spread over several villages. Catechists care for the Catholic needs of these communities on a day to day basis, supported by regular visits from the Parish Priest. Education has always been a priority for the Gizo Diocese. During the 1950s and 60s, Catholic schools were established in several centres, with



many young people travelling to them from outlying villages. With Independence in 1978, the Solomon Islands Government took over these schools, establishing in the process mostly village schools. Recent developments show that most will again be coming back under the control of the Diocese. In Gizo a thriving kindergarten was set up which has prepared children for school and there three Regional Training Centres, at St Anne's, Nila, (for girls), at St Dominic's Vanga (for boys) and a Community college, St Therese's Wagina, for young men and women of post- school age.

The future of the Gizo Diocese will be strengthened by the further education of its people. There are several young men and women training for the priesthood and the religious life, and the role of the laity is a very important one here as in the Catholic Church as a whole. A Pastoral Centre has been established at Moli, on the Island of Choiseul, where catechists are trained for their important role in the

life of the Church. Over the last few years, representatives from the Movement for a Better World have been promoting Renewal throughout the Parishes to engage all Catholics in the life of the Church and in planning for the future. Bishop Chris Cardone OP, for many years a priest of the Diocese, was appointed Auxiliary Bishop on the 27th of March 2001. On the 12th of December 2004, Bishop Chris started new duties as the Bishop of Malaita, succeeding Bishop Gerry Loft who retired at that time.

In 2007 after a vast damage caused by the tsunami, the diocese of Gizo was under the care of Bishop Luciano Capelli (SDB 21st October 2007) and it has been a dynamic change for the diocese. A new church building was constructed, a number of schools, training centers and parishes were added, and vocations to priesthood gradually merge. The people of the diocese of Gizo have been blessed and witness to what is often heard, the lord send prophets at the right time in the right place to face the circumstances of the time.

(Happy Diamonds Jubilee to the people of Gizo diocese)

New Saint John Bosco primary school inaugurated at Gizo.

The Catholic Church Gizo Registered Trustees (Inc.) officials solemnly inaugurated the new school, recently officially registered. The ceremony was attended by 205 students from Kindy, PPY, and grades one to five and their parents and community representatives. These children belong to various communities on the western side of Gizo Town at Nusabaruku, Fishing Village and other small villages from the coves behind fishing Village, who find it difficult to travel Gizo daily by boat. The



The pictures illustrate the day June 13, 2020

new school is located at the hill top known as 'millionaire point', now re-baptized with a Christian name of NUSA-BOSCO

The communities are grateful to the Commissioner of land for the lease of the place to the Catholic church for the use for education purposes. Someone said something like this, *"If you want to harvest soon, plant vegetables... if you want to harvest after long time fruits for generations, educate persons now"*.

The projects had benefactors from Don Bosco Germany and Italy but also personal friends and benefactors of the Gizo Catholic Diocese here and abroad. The Job was done by our Diocesan Boys, trained by our visiting Italian volunteers, who worked hard for the past 13 years in the post-earthquake and tsunami rebuilding program of the Diocese.

The six classrooms and the hall are ready so for three staff houses... A cemented pathway has also been laid so as to prevent children from getting wound and bruises and get stuck with their feet on the mud.

We are grateful to God for this gift to these 205 children who feel one in their task of growing into good Christians of their own respective churches and honest citizens of Solomon Islands. We might not see the fruits of what we are planting, the children of these children will receive the fruits of their education now.



St Peter Urban Training Center Gizo

After the two months of “lockdown” St Peter Urban Training Centre resumed its lessons. It took three full weeks to have all students back, stranded here and there in the Western Province. Everyone was just waiting to come back but the problem was the transportation, which in the Solomon Islands is not often available.

As requirement from the Ministry of Education, the school put up all the COVID 19 precautions: temperature checking before to enter the school, social distance in the classrooms (one student per desk), washing hands encouragement, taking turn to use the facilities between the Training Centre and the Kindergarten, taking turn for the use of the workshops, new daily time table, no more morning assembly, no more sports or common activities.

It wasn't easy for students and staffs abide to these and other new roles and it was funny the first days to see students and staffs confused, asking “what shall we do now?” Some students had to search for their uniforms at home, having forgotten where they put it. Some came from the village with such a bushy hair that our hair-dresser



teacher spent time to trim them to look like students and not like bush men! But the happiness of being together again, to share stories, to start new projects and learn new topics, made everyone willing to get through any difficulty. Sadly some of our students didn't come back, for various reasons: we are praying for them that they may find good activities to employ their time.

Some students are still struggling to get back to the school routine, especially to wake up early in the morning!!! But all of us are happy to be here, at St Peter school, to continue to journey together until the end of the school year, and achieve the goal given by don Bosco to his children: to be Good Christians and Honest Citizens.

Sr Anne (sdb)

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND.



It was good and a heartfelt experience to be able to join the group from PNG for the Pilgrimage to Holy Land for 10 days. 10 priest accompanied us, two from the Solomon Islands and 15 of us lay people. We left PNG on 22 February and returned on Sunday 1 March.

The pilgrimage had allowed us to see and walked on the places where Jesus walked and did his ministries during his lifetime on earth. It took us to Mt Nebo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, Mt Beatitudes, MT of Transfiguration

Mt Carmel, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, Bethany and Beyond Jordan,

Especially the site of the river Jordan where John baptized Jesus.

Holy Mass was celebrated there and the pilgrimage group renewed their baptismal promises. The Jordanian army heavily guarded this place.

However, this pilgrimage journey was truly enriching, refreshing and not only renewing but a faith strengthening and an eye opening for all of us. The journey inspired us not only to preach about the Gospel but to live it.



May I take this time to thank the bishop's conference of PNGSI for organizing this pilgrimage trip and to our beloved Bishop Luciano Capelli, sdb for supporting us financially. Without his help, we will not be there. Thank you Bishop, May God continue to bless you and your Holy dreams for the diocese of Gizo. May I also extend our sincere thanks to our priests and those who have supported us with their prayers.

God bless you all.

Jerome Kuibatu

UPDATES ON OUR GIZO DIOCESE SCHOOLS BEFORE AND AFTER COVID -19 EMERGENCY ALERT - SOLOMON ISLANDS.

This is just a brief update report on our schools before and after the term one Covid- 19 Emergency alert.

We have a total of 15 schools. Six (6) are in Shortlands, one (1) on North East Choiseul four (4) are in Gizo area. Three (3) are on Kolombangara Island and one (1) in Noro New Georgia.

First of all this Education Authority (EA) acknowledges all the Messages sent by the Prime minister at the National level through the Permanent Secretary (PS) MEHRD.

We reflected on those numerous media messages and self-evaluated the situation in our various schools and institutions settings, where our schools are situated. Messages were well noted according to the messages highlighted per SIBC and letters sent to the Education Authority on the CVD-19. But unfortunately, not all School Leaders have access to Radio or TV thus this office tried its best to relay important issues to all our schools in the best possible means.

Teachers

At the initial stage of CVD-19 alert messages especially toward the end of March and beginning of April up

until 1st week of the month of May, all teachers were in their posted schools of 2020 continued working in their respective schools. At the initial stage this EA had officially requested the PS for his permission to close its schools especially in the Shortlands due to the boarder's numerous instability activities.

However coming towards end of April and the first week of May, when the Bougainville boarder issue which raised further grave concern, a couple of our teachers who are posted in Nila and Tuha schools, progressively moved back to their nearby home villages, e.g Choiseul, Vella and New Georgia. Others due to no salary from MEHRD since the month of February went back as far as to Malaita and Makira . However one of our secondary Schools which is on Moli Island, NE Choiseul, St. Joseph's Moli Catholic Secondary school, practically, all its teachers were at their school during the holiday break in April. Their principal always contacted our office for any date resumption order or any further emergencies.

All our teachers had been well informed from this office to ensure the classrooms were hygienically clean hand washing is essential and to ensure social distancing is applied especially in the classrooms and dormitories. It still continues to advise its teachers to look after the Wash areas especially to clean the toilets and wash rooms to meet COV-19 standard expectation.

Students /Parents and Guardians

Parents and Guardians were alerted and the schools had used some of their School Grant toward repatriation of students. A good number of students from our two institutions of St. Dominic's RTC and Vanga Teachers College were also repatriated to their home in Makira, Malaita, Isabel and Guadalcanal during the first term holiday break.

Resumption of schools

Carefully studying all our schools situation and working with the Leaders of the schools and their School communities, the Education Secretary, worked with the bishop and arranged that all Diocese of Gizo schools were to recall all its schools students and teachers on the month of May in order for all its schools to resume on the 1st of June 2020.

Our schools had progressively resumed as of 1st of June and are progressing well. We are now still working closely with Teachers, parents and guardians especially on their financial status arrangement of how reluctant they would be to send their children back to school. Our office too is studying our situation in Gizo at this time visiting schools as we have quite a number of ECE classes and PPY which now we are working closely with

for their prompt resumption.

Finally, may I acknowledge and congratulate Rev. Bishop Luciano Capelli; sbd for his visionary leadership and his continuous advice shared in his messages to all our parish priests and leaders of schools during the first term of school 2020.

To you our devoted School Principals and ECE Supervisors thank you for the leadership role you shouldered with your School Committee in our various schools during the first term of the year and the holiday break. You are truly a leader in your school and this I wish to thank you all for your courage, strength and passion. Indeed you have carried out your "Mission" faithfully and accordingly in which you had cared for your teachers' and students' wellbeing and welfare at your respective school during the first term of school when the emergency of the Covid -19 was highlighted throughout Solomon Islands and the outside world.

May the good Lord bless us all, as we try to continue to carry out our God given mission faithfully and passionately to live hygienically and to learn to protect our home and school environment from this pandemic daily.

Thank you and God Bless!

*Wryne Bennett Education Secretary
Diocese of Gizo Education Authority
Western Province*

CHRIST THE KING VORUVORU

TUTU COMMUNITY ENGAGED IN CHARITY WORK AT VORUVORU. More than one hundred people comprised of leaders,youths,men and women of Tutu zone community inside Christ the king parish at northwest Choiseul on 4 of June 2020 engaged in charity work by collecting sand which will complete the church building



project foundation at Voruvoru Catholic mission station.

Now that Tutu community had already completed the sand collection the constructor and his workers will complete the church building foundation and continue on to build on the upper

structures of the building. The church building is funded under the post tsunami fund by bishop of Gizo diocese and when completed will become the parish church for the newly established Christ the king parish inside the diocese. As a new mission station other buildings will be erected after the church building is completed.



STAFF AND STUDENTS OF MOLI CHS CONFUSED ON RESUMPTION OF CLASSES.

Staff and students of St Joseph's Moli Catholic secondary community high school at northwest Choiseul said they were confused on the way mehrd had announced resumption of classes for schools inside emergency zones. St Joseph Moli Catholic School was one of them. Both the principal and rector of the school said that as their school is located near Taro just next door to Bougainville where corona virus can easily pass through into the country and they were still afraid unless the government give them full assurance that they are safe or otherwise they should be at home until next year. Therefore they called on the government through it's relevant ministries to quickly establish quarantine and isolation centres and other medical facilities as promised at Taro and full assurance that they are safe to continue on classes to give them confidence and thus brush aside fear and confusion.

VORUVORU PRIMARY SCHOOL BAZAAR. Voruvoru community in ward 12 at northwest Choiseul held their primary school bazaar on 26 of June 2020. The purpose

of holding the bazaar was to raise fund to continue with their on going program to complete renovation of their old classroom building and for two new staff houses. Activities of the bazaar were selling of cooked and uncooked foods and card games which raised a total of seven thousand and seven hundred and thirty seven dollars. Chairman of Voruvoru primary school, Mr Jordan Qavibatu and his committee wish to thank all who provided their support in one way or the other for the success of the bazaar. *By Hon Nerio Ulemiki, media coordinator, Ctkp, nwCh.*

This picture illustrates the visit on 7th June 2020 @Ranonga



Catholic community in Taro



Visit to the sick

On the 28th of June St Peter youth make a visit to Miss Everlyn Tango, a former primary teacher well known to them. This visit brings tears of joy to miss Everlyn as she could recall the days of her career as a primary teacher to most youths who were present that very instant. It was an exchange of joy between the youths and the family. Everlyn Tango now resides at Banana valley, happily with her hard working husband and grandchildren.

In a very simple ceremony at Taro on July 5, 2020. The Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo witnessed the handing over of the Newly erected parish to the new 'care taker' Rev Fr Fred Guadalupe. The official handover was done through two simple signs: the handing over the key of the Tabernacle and of the Stole. Fr Kobakina who will take some time to recover in his health expressed gratitude to the people and encouraged them to be faithful and generous in their support to Fr Fred who at the same time expressed his availability and readiness to offer his best to the community. Indeed the Taro Church is a newly born, baby community... but make no mistake it is not a pussy catty baby... it is a baby Tiger...



Catholic community of Ranonga

Penuna in Ranonga is one of the Catholic community that is under the care of St Peter parish, Gizo. A regular visit to Ronanga is once in a month. Like any other places Ronanga is a welcoming and beatiful community. The catholic community is growing and has alot of plans in terms of her church building and a priests resident.

The active group of the legion of Mary at Nusabaruka never gave up hope in praying the Rosary

Wow! I have an emotional story to share with my good parishioners of Gizo Parish. This story is focused on hope. Two small frogs accidentally fell into the bucket of cream. They thrashed about an hour, trying to make it up to the side of the metal bucket. Exhausted

one of the frogs grasped, "it is the end of me". Through going lots of struggles the frog gave up and glued and drowned in the cream.

The second frog however, struggled on, It jumped and jumped with all its strength then suddenly, it found itself sitting safely out from the cream. The moral of the story is to try and never give up then one day the good result of your struggles will come into reality. This is the main topic that people talked verbally about People of Nusabaruka who had seen the fruits of praying the Rosary. I am deliberately convinced with what they emotionally shared to the big group at the funeral Mass. I have noticed that Kiribati people love to pray the rosary than the other prayers. If we look In the Diocese of Gizo Kiribati Catholic members do not join other groups such as Divine Mercy, Couple of Christ but they still maintain the group of the legion of Mary. It is interesting to see that the elderly women always recite the rosary and they travel with rosaries as our young people of today travel with the mobiles.

I made a joke to them by saying that they never worked or contributed to the projects that were established on Nusabaruka. They stared at me as they were ready to attack me because they were not quite happy with my words. I could sense that I was lucky because they respected me a lot. As we were waiting for the food to be served our stories begun. I was moved and touched to hear a very powerful response from one of the mothers who has no teeth. She smiled to me and said they worked hard to get up every morning prayed to our mother Mary to give us good schools and road. For me it really sounded funny. These were our prayers for ages, she exclaimed. It was not easy to get up and prayer. It needs strength and courage. Furthermore we saw the fruits of our prayers. On the other hand, she shared to the group that she fell in the water with the statue of Mary and she prayed to Mary to give them good road so that this kind of incident will not happen again. The big group were all in great silent.

The other women (I could not be able to recall their names) also shared their vast experiences that they went through. One lady shared her some emotional stories

that the power of the Rosary changed the painful attitudes caused by her husband. The husband always stopped her not to go and attended the Rosary because it was just a waste of time. However, the wife, never gave up. When the husband was not around she ran away and joined the legion of Mary, reciting the decades of rosary. When she returned at home her unkind husband would tell her not to come back. Sometimes he would force her to do the man's job like putting up sea walls with big stones by herself. And if she hesitated then he would bash her up badly. She suffered lots of pain and yet she always prayed and pleaded to Mary to change the attitude of her husband. For me personally the faith of this woman is like the mother of St Augustine the great scholar and saint of the calendar. The man changed and he became the champion who supported the praying of the rosary. He became the bell ringer to remind his wife the time for rosary especially in the morning, midday and the evening at 6.

I would like to conclude my short story by saying that the group of legion of Mary is like the story of a man who was sick for thirty eight years (John 5:6). This story of a sick man he never gave up hope of healing. At the end Jesus healed him. The legion of Mary group, especially the mothers never gave up of having faith in Jesus. They prayed via the intercession of the mother of the Lord to give them blessings.

Currently blessings are pouring into Nusabaruka. If we look at what happens now that they have the good road, the church, clinic and the schools. They thanked the Lord for sending Bishop Luciano Capelli who has the big heart for the people of Nusabaruka. The Catholic community at Nusabaruka would like to thank all those who rendered the services to them with generosity especially the volunteers and the benefactors. The light is shining through the struggles that people cant solve. The legion of Mary put their hearts together keep on asking her for more blessings. Never give up ask via the intercession of Mary the mother of the Lord and the Church.

God bless Gizo Diocese

Fr Lawrence Kimaere

In Blessing of Saint John Bosco School:

By Year Five Students

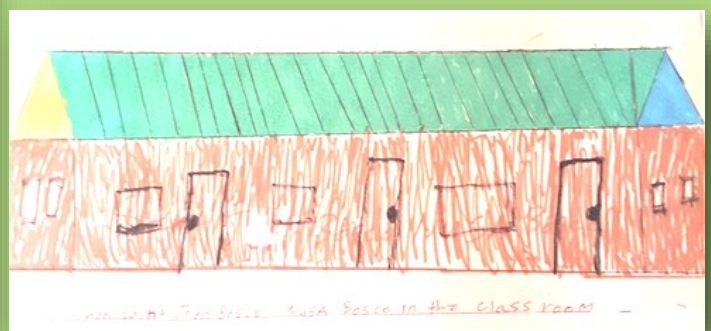
On the 13 of June 2020 a new school was opened at Nusabaruka on the hill top. It was a dream come true.



The inauguration was very special because every parent, teacher, stake holders, Bishop, Fathers, community leaders come together, happy, enjoying, dancing, to celebrate the opening of the classrooms together.



Thank you Bishop for blessing the school, thank you benefactors for helping us build the school. Our school is a gift of God. We are happy to be the pioneer students of the new school. We are happy to be the best school, with the best teachers so we can be the best children ever. Thank you parents for sending us to school to learn something new everyday. Thank you teachers for being the pioneer teachers, we love our school so much!



NUSA BOSCO 2020