



The St. Peter Upendo Mission: Always Moving Forward

The mission team is back from Kenya with another extremely successful week behind us. We celebrated the final Mass in the old church on Sunday and the first Mass in the new church on Monday. At Monday's Mass, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Nakuru Confirmed 200 Catholics from St. Timothy Parish (of which St. Peter Upendo is one of the 15 churches). Between 800 and 1000 members of the parish took off work to spend six hours celebrating a new beginning for St. Peter Upendo and a sacrament for the 200 Catholics. What an amazing day to witness and be part of!



The week also saw meetings with the St. Peter Upendo parish committees, Upendo primary school, and Baraka Agricultural College. Two years ago, our mission collection supported the Education Pillar with the building of a school kitchen and the start of a successful school lunch program. Last year's collection was used to support the Spiritual Pillar with the foundational build of a new church, a gift that was only possible through the Grace of God. While an incredible amount of work has been completed in these pillars, the work is not finished. We will continue to strategically support projects in these pillars, but the focus of this year's collection will shift to the Community Development Pillar.

The team held a successful meeting with the Principal and Community Outreach Director of Baraka Agricultural College as well as the community members who will launch the initial phases of the partnership between the Upendo community and the college. During that meeting, we were able to come to an agreement with the college to provide programs in sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, and entrepreneurship, and the decision was made to move forward with the next steps of the program. Baraka College will review the information and provide a customized set of programs for the community. These programs involve individual assessments of participating farms, periodic teaching sessions, and follow-up for monitoring and correcting the lessons learned.

Once the customized program has been defined, Baraka College will share it with the mission team and the Upendo community. We expect to share more details of the program in the coming weeks. While we wait for the program to be created, **we ask you to look forward to the Kenya Mission collection on the weekend of September 19 and 20. Your generous support will determine the number of Upendo community members whom we can help with the program.** Direct payments will not be going to the community members, and those who successfully complete the program have agreed to share a portion of their increased production with the community. With your help, this program can help uplift the entire community.

