



## The St. Peter Upendo Mission: Gratitude from Kenya

**September 19 and 20 is the annual collection to support our mission in Kenya.**

The focus of this year's collection is the Community Development Pillar. As we shared in last week's bulletin, we were able to come to an agreement with Baraka Agricultural College to provide outreach programs in sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, and entrepreneurship. Baraka College is currently reviewing the information and will 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 correction of the lessons learned. Looking forward to next weekend, the Kenya Mission team will have representatives at the doors after Masses to answer any questions you may have about the work we are doing in Kenya. **In gratitude for the amazing support we received last year for the building of the church, we will also be holding a lottery for a selection of Kenyan craft works that we brought back from Kenya.** We have Messai blankets, soapstone coaster sets, and placemat/table runner sets to give away. Please stop by the tables after Mass to put your name and phone number in the lottery to win these beautiful gifts. No donation is needed to enter the lottery, but no donation will be turned away. We will share more details about the Baraka College program as we receive them. Until then, please read the following excerpts from the pastor of St. Timothy Total Parish (St. Peter Upendo Church is part of the St Timothy Parish). We will share more details about the Baraka College program as we receive them. Until then, enjoy the following excerpts from Fr. Simon Njuguna Ndungu.



### **A Letter from Fr. Simon Njuguna Ndungu, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya**

Greetings to you all. *"By the Lord has this been done, it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad." Psalm 118:23-24.*

We are joyful and grateful first to the Almighty God for His blessings. He made us witnesses of this. To the parish priest and the parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA—*Ahsante sana, barikiwa* (thank you very much) for your generosity and kindness. Thank you for your sacrifices, financial support and other gifts we always receive from you. Years and years, you always give us Christmas ... We do not take it for granted. You heeded our cry. In our lowest moments, we prayed, "Oh God, come to our aid!" You heard our prayer, made haste and came to help us. Now we have a church—spacious and beautiful. God bless you.

As a parish, we humbly pray that this friendship and collaboration between St. Timothy Parish Total and St. Ignatius of Loyola Cincinnati may continue flourishing. We call you "Friends of St. Timothy Total Parish." We will never forget you, and anytime we see this church, be assured of our prayers. Allow me to give thanks to the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Cleophas Oseso Tuka, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, without whose support all this would not have been achieved. *Ahsante sana*, Bishop, for having me in this parish at this time to witness this moment of grace.

To the Engineer Rev. Fr. Kang'ethe and the contractor Mr. Kange, we are very much grateful for a job well done. To the parishioners of St. Timothy Parish and, more so, St. Peter's Upendo, thank you very much. Together, we dreamt about building a new church three years ago. I remember our first meeting and the photo we took after our deliberations, still serving as the profile picture of our church WhatsApp group. Indeed, we prayed and our prayers have been answered. We knocked and the door was opened for us. We sought help and truly we got it, thanks to our friends from St. Ignatius Loyola Cincinnati. (Mt 7:7-11). Our prayers have been answered.

In a very special way, I dedicate this day and this church to the late Mzee Romano Odipo (R.I.P.), the father of Daniel Odipo. This church is indeed a product of the Masses for the sick, the anointing of the old man and Holy Communion to him at home. He was a man strong in faith and full of hope. Despite his human frailty due to old age, he looked forward to seeing a new church constructed here. I very well remember when he told me that once construction started, I should go and pick him up from home and bring him to see for himself the work being done. I believe he is with us, not physically, but watching from above in spirit. May he rest in eternal peace. Thank you, Daniel, and your friends, for taking up the wish of your father. He is proud, I believe, even from heaven.

You came, you visited, and we became friends. You are a blessing to us. We shall reciprocate. I, Fr. Simon Njuguna Ndungu, and some representatives of St. Peter's Upendo look forward, by the grace of God, to visiting St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Cincinnati and expressing our heartfelt gratitude. *Ahsante sana kwa Upendo wenu na Baraka hapa kwetu Upendo-Baraka* (Thank you very much for your love and blessings here at our home, Upendo-Baraka).