



# Beausang Bulletin

principal@beausang.org  
admin@beausang.org  
dev.beausang@gmail.com

June ,2008

Volume 3 Issue 2

P. O. Box 1416

Karen - 00502

Nairobi

Kenya.

Phone: + 254 020 883 642

Mobile: + 254 723 751 535

School Motto: CARPE DIEM

## OFFICIAL BLESSING OF THE NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

The 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 marked yet another milestone in Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre. It was the official day of the EXODUS from the old secondary Building to the new building. The organizing committee decided to have it as a blessing day and not official opening day after serious consideration of many factors among them the fact that construction of second phase is still in progress and therefore the site could not accommodate many people. The excitement of many faces could hardly go unnoticed. They all seemed to echo the following words from an extract of an article I had once written for St Bernard Publication.

*"No analogy that can in exactitude point to the intended meaning. The completion of the first phase of the secondary school building may be compared rather inadequately to an 'oasis in the desert'. Who could have imagined that in such a poor locality, a beautiful school building can spring up? We in Brother Beausang Catholic Education centre and indeed the entire community have witnessed an almost impossible dream become a reality"*

The ceremony begun with a **Procession** from the Old buildings to the new modern building. The procession group constituted of teachers and students from first secondary school community of January 2004 carrying 3 Religious Symbols recently commissioned by the school

- Mary, Mother of God (patron of the parish, and hence also the school),
- Blessed Edmund Rice (founder and inspiration of the Christian Brothers),
- School Logo (designed by students in 2006) – parish symbol of Mother of God superimposed of learning and academic materials
- The procession symbolically recalls the entry of the Israelite people into the promised Land

The occasion was graced by the presence of Bishop Cornelius Schilder of Ngong Catholic Diocese and the area member of Parliament and Minister for Internal security Honorable Professor George Saitoti, Donor representatives, The Parish Priest among many other key guests.

In his speech during the occasion the chief guest of the Day, his Lordship Bishop Cornelius Schilder acknowledged the significant contribution of the Christian Brothers especially in their charism of empowering youths through Education. He deeply emphasized holistic development of a person, which is one of the pillar principles of Brother Beausang Education Centre. He further expressed his gratitude to all donors and those who have contributed in different ways to Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre.

On his part, the Minister on behalf of the government appreciated the contribution of the Church in national development and particularly in the promotion of education. He encouraged such partnerships as the only way out of ignorance and poverty. He further expressed optimism about the bright future of Beausang as it is under the able management of Christian Brothers who have a history of good academic performance. Finally he challenged the students to make best use of the noble opportunity at hand.

Among other key groups and representatives present were

- Cross International Catholic Outreach
- Christian Brothers Foundation for Charitable Works.
- Rotary Club Karen

- Rotary Club Essendon from Australia

Headmound Okari - Development Officer

### Extract from the Principals' speech

*(History of Development Read by Mr. Kihoria)*

Fr Kevin McGarry, the first parish priest of Embulbul, and founder of Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre, had been taught by the Christian Brothers when he was a youth in Ireland; he was so appreciative of the education he received that he named the schools he founded in Embulbul after one of his teachers— Br Thomas Finbarr Beausang; he also successfully sought the Christian Brothers to administer the schools.

There are striking parallels between the initiative taken by Kevin McGarry in Embulbul 2000 with those of Edmund Rice in Waterford, Ireland 1802 Blessed Edmund Rice, a wealthy businessman and



Rt Bishop Cornelius Schilder Blessing the water during the function

widower, used all his resources for the education and care of street children. He founded a congregation which continues and is now active in many countries

June 2000 - Fr Kevin McGarry established an Informal Primary school (250 pupils registered in first 2 days, enrolments were halted later in the week when the number reached 300 in week). Certainly the provision of a substantial meal in the middle of day was a huge attraction.

January 2002 - Formal Primary School was established and gained registration

January 2004 - Secondary School was established in tin sheds (two Form One Classes and 5 teachers);

2004 - Master Plan was commissioned on a very ambitious scale

January 2006 - Christian Brothers assumed management of Centre October 2007- First KCSE candidates were presented, and sat for their examinations in the new building (performing creditably)

2008 - Secondary school relocated to new site; a third stream introduced in Form One.

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre currently consists of the following structure, with a total enrolment of **759** students.

- **Pre-Primary** – Nursery and Pre-unit classes (59 students)
- **Primary School** – single stream, Standards 1-8, plus Special unit (310 students)
- **Secondary School** – double stream, Forms 2-4 with third stream Form 1 (390 students)

All classes are full to capacity, with waiting lists at all levels.

As a Christian Brother, I have been inspired by the vision, example, and spirituality of Blessed Edmund Rice. He saw holistic education of the needy in Ireland as a priority, and his work was truly transforming. Kevin McGarry recognized a similar need in Embulbul, and addressed it. We have the privilege of assisting in this noble work..

## Changes

The original arrangements were that Fr McGarry & the Embulbul Parish were to take full responsibility for all capital developments in the school, with the Christian Brothers responsible for the education and administration. Fr McGarry had already demonstrated extraordinary expertise in fund raising as demonstrated by the construction of the dispensary, counseling centre, convent, presbytery and church. His unexpected departure early in 2006 necessitated a major change. Our choice was either to expand or perish, as it was not possible to continue a secondary school in the temporary premises. Hence the Brothers reluctantly assumed the additional responsibility for development. It would have been a major tragedy for all the good work and planning to come to nothing.

Fr McGarry had intended to build the whole of the school as set out in the Master Plan. I have no idea how he hoped to raise the necessary finance. We decided to divide the plan into 5 or 6 stages.

- Stage One is the classroom block we bless today
- Stage Two is the resources block under construction
- The Sixth and final stage is a large hall. I have joked with the students that they might be bringing their grandchildren to the opening of Stage 6



*Principal addressing the congregation*

## Vision

His vision for the secondary school incorporated the following elements

- Assist the local youth, the majority of whom are very needy, who otherwise had little chance of a secondary education
- Develop quality buildings and quality programs
- Establish a Strong Christian ethos
- Provide a Comprehensive education, which would meet their real needs encourage independent and creative thinkers.

In summary he planned the best possible school for the local poor; it was not to have a boarding component, as it was intended for locals; it was not intended for the elite, or the well to do. I believe the main reason so many sponsors support us because of this vision of catering for the needy to the needy, not elite

I have no doubt that our attractive modern facilities will attract an increasingly large number of applicants. However, we are determined to hold fast to the vision of Edmund Rice and Kevin McGarry to continue to cater for the needy locals, rather than seeking to cater for the needs of the elite.



*Rotarians from left Lucy Gitonga, Richard Lawrence, Matt O'Brien Jeffrey Bamford and others  
In front are statues of Edmund Rice, Mary Mother of God and the School Logo*



## Sponsors

Our recurrent expenses are met by a combination of local fees and contributions, together with sponsorships and contributions from overseas. We are not self-supporting, and continue to requiring outside assistance, especially through the provision of student sponsorships and bursaries.

Almost all the funding for Stage One has come from overseas sponsors. This excellent building that we bless today has only been possible by their generous donations.

**Cross International Catholic Outreach** has supported the school with recurrent expenditure since its inception. When we wished to commence Stage One, we needed a firm commitment from a sponsor to demonstrate that the project was viable, rather than just a good idea. Cross committed themselves to raising the large amount of \$US 284000 towards the 12 classrooms, so building could commence. This enabled us to approach other potential donors with confidence. Cross have also taken the lead in commencing Stage Two

I am delighted that Jon Merrill from USA is present with us today

**Rotary International** The Rotary Club in Essendon linked with the newly formed Rotary Club in Karen to assist with the provision of our sanitation, water and power. In particular they took responsibility for financing and monitoring the sewage treatment plant, which was a necessity for environmental reasons. They have adopted a very hands-on approach, and have been successful in gaining support from Rotary International; a total cost of about \$US130000. The treatment plant will service not only the school but the whole parish complex.

I am delighted that a large contingent from Rotary Essendon, together with a significant number from Rotary Karen are with us today.

**3. The Christian Brothers Foundation for Charitable Works**, based in Melbourne, has assisted us in many ways. It acts as a conduit for Australians who wish to support us (a businessman in Perth, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated \$A100000); they have raised an additional \$A100000.

Matt O'Brien, in addition to being a active member of Rotary, is representing the Foundation today.

**4.** A number of schools in Ireland & Australia have made significant contributions - especially St Bernard's College Essendon; St Davids CBS Artaine; Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk, Tralee; and a group of & Killarney schools coordinated by Eddie Sheehy).

**5.** Donors from Canada, Italy and Australia. - The kitchen has been constructed to perpetuate the memory of Daniel Ryan RIP.

A general plaque to be made after completion of stage 2, recognizing donors to both buildings.

## VAT Exemption

Value Added Tax (VAT) in Kenya is 16%. Last year the Ndong Diocese and the school applied for VAT exemption for the first 2 stages of the building project. Meetings were held with Hon Amos Kimunya, the Minister for Finance, and Professor George Saitoti, the then Minister for Education. Our application stressed that our school, though technically a private school, was Not for Profit, catered for the poor and needy, and had an inclusive enrolment policy. Two weeks ago we were informed that our application was successful, resulting in a very considerable saving; had the application failed, the construction of Stage 2 would probably have had to be halted I wish to record my appreciation to the Kenyan Government, and particularly to Professor Saitoti for his active support.

## Builders & Consultants

I wish to record our appreciation to the firms who have been responsible for the planning and construction of our fine complex. They have carried out their duties very professionally, and have provided much additional assistance.

- Architect - Shamla Fernandes
- Builder - Kilimanjaro Construction Limited
- Quantity Surveyors - Barker & Barton, Kenya
- Structural Engineer - R K Boga,
- Environmental consultant - Greenplanet Africa Ltd
- Sewage Treatment Plant - Allied Plumbing.

I give very special thanks to Feo Fernandes (architect) and Jayanti Patel (builder), without whose extra help the project could not have commenced. Both have been extremely generous in reducing costs and allowing deferred payments when necessary.

## The Building Project - Stage One

The 12 classroom block caters for three streams of students. Currently nine classrooms are used as homerooms, two for additional classes and tutorials, and one as temporary accommodation for staff.

## Building Project Stage Two

The Resources Block of Library and Laboratories will also include staff and administration on an interim basis. It will free the 12 classroom block to be used solely for classrooms, allowing a third stream to be enrolled.

- 3 Laboratories - Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Information Technology
- Library (a large section of the library will be used for staff and administration for several years, until a separate administration block is constructed)

Walkways and Staircases

## Conclusion

We at Brother Beausang have been richly blessed by the provision of these excellent facilities. We are grateful to God, and to our generous benefactors and sponsors.

Our staff and students are determined to use the opportunities provided to us to the full. Today, we seek the blessing of God Almighty on our teaching and learning.



Hon. Professor George Saitoti addressing the congregation



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

## PHOTOS

1. JOHN MERRILL— CROSS INTERNATIONAL
2. MATT O'BRIEN— CHRISTIAN BROTHERS FOUNDATION AND ROTARY ESSENDON
3. ROTARIANS PRESENTING A PLAQUE TO THE PRINCIPAL
4. SECTION OF THE COMPLETED PHASE ONE

## LIST OF GUESTS PRESENT

- Bishop of Ngong Diocese and Family
- Area MP Prof. George Saitoti
- Cross International
- Rotary Karen
- Rotary Essendon
- SMA Priests
- Christian Brothers
- Area Chief
- Area Counselor
- Parents
- Students (Primary and Secondary)
- Mr. Wainaina – CDF
- Embulbul Parish Dispensary
- Embulbul Parish Counseling Centre
- Good Samaritan Group
- District Officer
- Division Education Officer
- Capuchin Sisters

PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

*Compiled and Edited by Headmound Okari.  
headmoundokari@yahoo.com*

*This edition of Beansang Bulletin is sponsored by Mercy Secondary School Mounthhawk, Ireland. We much appreciate their generous support.*