

JULY 2021

THE MONTHLY GRIND

The monthly newsletter of the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya

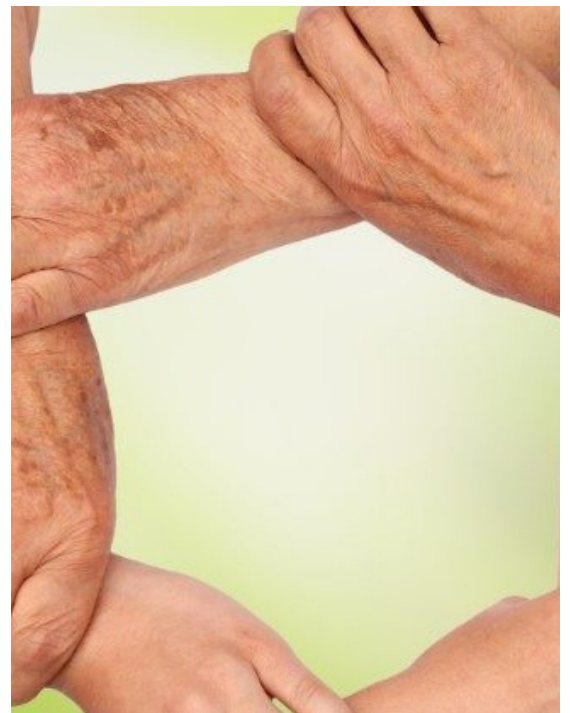


Pope's prayer intention for July: Social friendship

Written by Victor Emoja-AOSK Communications

In the month of July, the Holy Father called on all to become “architects of dialogue and friendship” to solve the conflicts and causes of division that exist in society and among individual people. Only through dialogue, he said, it is possible to avoid the constant polarization and social enmity that destroy so many relationships.

The Holy Father asked that we pray to construct the common good with men and women who extend a hand to each other, and especially to always be at the side of the “most impoverished and vulnerable, those on the peripheries”.



African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC)

Onsite Orientation for ASEC students.

Every year ASEC Kenya recruits and awards scholarships to sisters students who qualify for university education.

ASEC's Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) program has got two models, the first model is the online-onsite model in which sister's study for one-year online at a partner university in the USA, completing 27 credits, the second model is the onsite model where sisters study on campus at a partner university in Kenya. This year, online orientation of Mary wood university new students started with one-week onsite orientation from 27th June to 3rd July. Thereafter, the sisters transited to a one-month long online orientation which commenced on 5th July to 30th July.

During the one-month long orientations, these student sisters were taught by faculty from the Universities and Colleges in USA and on the ground, they were assisted by IT experts. They also received input from local facilitators on topics related to university education and their own personal growth.

This training has a number of benefits amongst them being that; It prepares students for success in their programs, it acclimates sisters to higher education study prior to entry, it sets goals and expectations and Establishes an internal support system among sisters within each cohort and lastly sisters receive their laptops and initial technological training during the Orientation.



ASEC students with their awarded laptops during the orientation at Dimesse Sisters Center, Karen



ASEC students During an orientation session with Dr. Ann Rita Njage at Dimesse Sisters Center, Karen



A group Photo of Facilitators together with the 10 ASEC students who will be joining Marywood University.



Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI)

The second activity under the ASEC Program during the month of July was under the Sisters leadership development program, (SLDI). The SLDI is the largest program that is run by ASEC and it takes place across the Ten African Countries. The purpose of the program is to provide leadership and technological training to the catholic sisters in Africa. In this program, sisters are always expected to finish the workshops on technology and leadership within a span of three years.

During this year's workshop, 50 sisters were privileged to participate in a one week onsite orientation at Dimesse sisters Center in Karen and thereafter continue with a three month online training. Thereafter, these sisters will join the other 100 sisters who have been going under this kind of program for the past three years meaning that at the end, the program will have 150 students graduating. By the end of the three months, the fifty sisters are expected to be fully equipped on matters finance and basic technology. The ASEC program is funded by Hilton Foundation.



SLDI students following a session during a training at Dimesse Sisters Centre, Karen. Courtesy of ASEC



A group photo of SLDI students at Dimesse sisters Centre in Karen. Courtesy of ASEC

AOSK Justice and Peace Commission AOSK-JPC

Refresher Training for ToT's on SGBV

The 2010 Kenyan Constitution provides that every person has the right to freedom and security and recognizes all international treaties ratified by Kenya – including the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 2014, Kenya also adopted the National Guidelines on the Management of Sexual Violence, providing a framework for the provision of services to SGBV survivors. It is noted with concern that the commitment to addressing SGBV has advanced more quickly in policy documents than in practice. Notwithstanding these positive developments SGBV remains prevalent especially with the impacts of Covid 19 pandemic.

To address issues faced by the grassroots communities on SGBV and Human Trafficking AOSK-JPC a program funded by Trocaire, Misereor and Agiamondo held a refresher training and debriefing session on SGBV for the previously trained trainer of trainers (ToT's). The debriefing session aimed at helping the participants have a sharing moment on what they encounter, challenges they face, and lessons learnt in addressing SGBV in their communities.

The refresher training also aimed at strengthening the participants' knowledge, provide an insight and information on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and what needs to be done to support victims of SGBV and Human Trafficking.



ToT's During a refresher Training at Dimesse sisters centre, Karen. Courtesy of AOSK-JPC

On the Social Economic Empowerment for women living in Kibera informal settlement AOSK-JPC distributed seed money to 115 and 30 young mothers cumulatively to help them boost their various businesses following the negative effects of Covid 19 pandemic. Through the support the women beneficiaries are slowly restocking their businesses. The women beneficiaries also went through three sessions on group learning on record keeping to help them track their business spending on profit and loss.



Women undergoing a mentorship forum in Kibera

Additionally, Justice and Peace held two sensitization forums with 117 teenagers and young mothers on peer pressure. The forum aimed at enlightening the girls on peer pressure its effects and how to identify and differentiate between positive and negative effects of peer pressure.

AOSK-SCORE ECD

During the month of July, the SCORE ECD II project continued with final evaluation which was done by external consultants. The aim of the evaluation was to collect and analyse data about the project in order to assess the project performance in view of its strategic objectives. The major activity of the evaluation was interviews which focused on AOSK SCORE ECD project staff, the AOSK executive secretary, leadership of the nine implementing congregations, master trainers, community health workers, caregivers, male champions, stakeholders and partners. The interviews were conducted through; focus group discussions both virtual and face to face also interview for key informants and observation at the households and ECD spaces. The SCORE-ECD project in partnership with CRS are funded by the Hilton Foundation.



CHVs from Lwak and male champions from Rang'ala during the final evaluation

AOSK-SISTERS LED YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (AOSK-SLYI)

AOSK Sisters Led Youth Empowerment initiative (AOSK-SLYI) is determined to expand the provision of quality services to disadvantaged and vulnerable youth aged 15-25 years. This is through training youth on entrepreneurship alongside the courses they are already doing and later supporting them in groups to startup small businesses. Moreover, since most youth suffer drug and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, early marriage, difficulty relating with their parents/ guardians, low self-esteem and GBV among others, the program offers mentorship to the youth, through the 21 technical and vocational training institutions in the project. The project is funded by the Conrad Hilton foundation.

With the aim of supporting youth with seed capital to start of their own business after presenting their business ideas, AOSK-SLYI organized a three day training for 10 mentors who will be journeying with youth as they implement their business ideas. The Training commenced on 7th of July to 10th of July. The mentors were trained on Entrepreneurship and Youth Mentorship as a way of empowering them with knowledge and skills in order for them to be supportive to the youth.



Mentors in a session on entrepreneurship and youth mentorship by Ms. Damaris Muthusi

Much emphasis was given in understanding the Business Model Canvas (BMC). On youth mentorship, specific roles for mentors were outlined. The roles included; helping youth gain new skills and also helping the youth to make decisions as this is very key when it comes to the business world.

The second session organized by AOSK-SLYI took place on 19th-20th July at Dimesse Sisters. In this forum, 38 youth, 19 sister's administrators together with six mentors were present. The main objective of this forum was to introduce youth to the government programs. Through this forum, all present were able to know various opportunities that are available and the criteria used to benefit from such prospects. The representatives who came presented different ministries such as Youth Development Enterprise Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, Education and Youth Affairs. The four representatives were well equipped with information and were able to transfer knowledge to all present.



Youth and Sister's administrators during a forum at Dimesse Sisters centre, Karen



AOSK-CHEMCHEMI YA UZIMA INSTITUTE

INSTITUTE OF CATECHETICS AND PASTORAL MINISTRY

Student Testimony

Written by:

Sr. Gaudensia Kiconco, MCEM

Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary.

Director Kolibo Catechetical Training Centre

Mansa diocese

Zambia

My coming to the Institute of Catechetics and Pastoral ministry was a really blessing to me. What I enjoyed most in the first place was learning. I acquired a vast amount of knowledge in the classrooms, during various workshops and community service. ICAPAMI does not only give quality and modern education, but it also orients the students on biblical basis with firm Christian morals. To me, ICAPAMI was like my second novitiate. I enjoyed the various courses Dogmatic theology, Pastoral and spiritual theology, among others.

I enjoyed mostly Pastoral Theology and methodology in catechesis. Pastoral cycle has helped me to look at human experience as fundamental and the engine of evangelization because it is a lived reality, a reflection and interpretation of the situation. I also enjoyed the bible. Before I came to ICAPAMI, I did not know how the bible and Gospels in particular can be used in the process of catechesis by reading, interpreting and reflecting on particular texts which demonstrate the way in which God through Jesus Christ entered into history.

I also enjoyed the teaching experience which solidified my desire to teach. I feel that I can now teach comfortably in catechesis. In the entire period I was at Chemchemi, I enjoyed the discipline and conducive environment with an orderly library. I therefore, encourage congregations to send more members to ICAPAMI because the degree acquired there is very unique and is admired because it is open to all areas of apostolate.

AOSK-CHEMCHEMI YA UZIMA INTAKE

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Catholic Care for Children in Kenya

AOSK-CCCK

The journey towards realization of the AOSK-CCCK goal of promoting holistic family and community-based care can sustainably be achieved by creating a synergy of positive, collaborative and like-minded stakeholders who commit to ensuring a family-like environment is facilitated and promoted for children who are under institutionalized and community-based care. Below is a narration from Sr. Redemptor Ikunga the Administrator of Talitha Kum one of the CCIs under AOSK-CCCK program, on how the open day celebration held on 24th of July 2021 at their institution has brought together the children and the local community members and stakeholders to foster a mutual collaboration in the promotion of the welfare of the children.

Talitha Kum Hands to Serve Trust CCI is a religious-community based organization that provides a hybrid of institutional and community care to HIV positive orphaned and vulnerable children who cannot find immediate placement within the target community social safety nets. The word “Talitha Kum” is derived from the Bible (Mark 5:41), which means “Little girl arise”. The Home aspires to provide a holistic opportunity to the children to celebrate life every new day.

Considering the children, we serve and the great gift they are in the community, each year we conduct an open day which is a day to “Celebrate life”. It is on such a day that we mark the anniversary of the birthday of our Home and also acknowledge and appreciate all our stakeholders at various levels such as the AOSK-CCCK Program for capacity building among other services, the hospitals and schools who attend to the medical and educational needs of the children, the groups and individuals who support in food, NHIF scheme, School fees and other children’s needs. We come together in thanksgiving to God for the far He has journeyed with our children. The relatives of the children are also invited as they too play an important role in the wellbeing of our children.

The occasion brought about a lot of excitement and re-union of the children in the Home, alumni who grew up in the Home and now are reintegrated back in the community and the area youths who shared experiences of reuniting with family and the beauty of growing up in the family-like environment. The youths motivated the young ones to see life positively and to be hopeful that there is a better tomorrow. We were also joined by our associates St. Martin CSA and L’arche Kenya, the children’s office was also represented through the Sub-county children’s officer whom we work very close and a great lover of the children.

We thank God for accompanying us on this journey and for all the well-wishers who endeavour to see our children live normal lives just like all other children. In the spirit of the AOSK-CCCK program, we champion for Holistic family and community-based care for children as we share in this noble mission for ‘whoever welcomes a child.’ welcomes me, ‘Says the Lord’. AOSK-CCCK program is funded by GHR foundation.



Children from Talitha Kum Home Celebrating their open day with a dance

AOSK UNIT

The strengthening of the Nairobi Unit

AOSK Unit main Aim has always been to represent the AOSK organization at the grassroots level. On 18/07/2021 an online meeting with the aim of strengthening the Nairobi Unit was conducted. This virtual meeting attracted a number of 41 sisters most of them representing the western and the Eastern deaneries. During this meeting, the sisters shared on different ways the unit can be strengthened and they agreed on subdividing the unit into zones which will be marked by deaneries. The meeting for western deanery was set for 8th of August the year 2021.

The Covid-19 Response

Elsewhere on the Covid19 response project, a random visit is currently being conducted to 5 health facilities that participated in this project as part of M&E activity. On 28th and 29th of July 2021, AOSK Unit visited Muthale and Our lady of Lourdes Mutomo hospitals. During this visit, the staff and CHV shared on successes of the trainings that were done on Covid-19 pandemic. In Muthale hospital, the healthcare providers felt empowered such that they no longer fear to admit covid19 patients. The CHVs are now connecting those with signs and symptoms to the facility for support.



Staff in Our Lady of Lourdes sharing on their successes on covid19 response to the hospital

END

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

AOSK is grateful for your continued support of our mission. Together we are

making a difference!



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Tell: +254723577021, 0708663399

Document Compiled by:
Victor Emoja-AOSK
Communication
Officer