

Dear Friends at St. Francis of Assisi Church,

Peace and greetings from Dodoma, Tanzania! We rejoice in the Lord for the friendship and partnership we have had over the years. It has been a big blessing to our Jesuit mission in Dodoma. We recall, with gratitude to God, the many times and ways you supported us to accomplish the dream of having a Catholic grade school in our parish (St. Ignatius Prep and Primary School). This included the support for finishing buildings and consolidating our bursary fund for children from poor backgrounds!

St. Ignatius Prep and Primary school continues to thrive and has transformed the lives of many young men and women. The first graduates from this school are now finishing their first year in various universities in Tanzania. It was a class of 47 students and more than 2/3 of them are now in the university and various colleges around the country. With the growing needs about quality Catholic education in the area, we have added some land near the current school, and we hope to develop it in future and expand the school – at least to double the capacity from 450 students to 900. As we say, it is always good to have big dreams! God is in control; He leads the way!

Right now we have drilled a borehole to supply water for the little activities taking place on that extra plot! We thank you for the continuous generosity and support that has carried us thus far! In deed, the Lord delights in his people .... ! Come July this year we are celebrating 15 years of the existence of Ignatius Prep and Primary School. This is time of gratitude to God and to all of those who have supported us. You have been the strongest support to us and as we celebrate the 15 years we thank you in a special way and we pray that God continues to shower his blessings to each one of you and your families.

St. Ignatius Prep and Primary School acted a catalyst for the founding of our Catholic High School in Dodoma, St. Peter Claver High School – which now educates about 1200 students recruited from all parts of the country. The high school is becoming a rising star.

The parish continues to be a source of grace and spiritual blessings to the community of believers in Dodoma town and its surroundings. It continues to grow and expand in terms of population and activities. Each year we have about 350 baptisms, 300 first Holy Communion recipients, 300 Confirmations and about 65 weddings. A positive sign of the growth of the Church of God!

With the fast growing number of Catholicism, in the last few five years our parish, Blessed Maria Theresa Ledochowska, founded two more parishes and two outstations. One of the outstations is scheduled to become a full-fledged parish in about six months or so.

It is through your support and generosity that we have walked this far! May God bless you for your generosity and support! We keep you in our prayers all the time!

In Christ

Fr. Sossy Luyembe, SJ