

A MUSTARD SEED PARTNERSHIP

by Father John Bosco Mrope (Generalvikar)

How can I describe the partnership between the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi and Fürstenberg-Schule, Recke? It is like a tiny mustard seed. Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, yet it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can build their nests and be sheltered (Mk. 4:30-32).

The partnership between Fürstenberg-Schule, Recke started fifteen years ago when two priests, Father Konrad Köster, at that time a chaplain of the school, and Father Andrew Urbanski SDS, a Polish Missionary Priest working in the former Diocese of Nachingwea, now the Diocese of TUNDURU Masasi, in the Southern part of Tanzania, accidentally met at Cairo airport. After introducing themselves to each other friendship started between them.

Father Konrad Köster afterwards visited the Diocese. This visit resulted in the construction of Lukuledi garage which after-wards started partnership with Fürstenberg-Schule. Since then the teachers, students and parents have been contributing money for running and maintenance of this garage.

Bischof Magnus von Tunduru-Masasi



Since 1984 three motor mechanics have come to work from Germany in the Lukuledi garage partly supported by Fürstenberg-Schule. Several teachers started visiting the Diocese and priests from Tanzania have been visiting Recke. This year came the biggest group to visit the Diocese. The group had three teachers and three students including a former student of the school.

Efforts are been made to start partnership between some parishes surrounding the school with parishes in the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi. The parishes of Steinbeck and Halverde are in partnership with the parishes of Masasi and Nandembo respectively. Therefore the partnership has grown from two priests to school, parents and parishes. Maybe later it will develop into the Diocese of Münster and the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi.

The question is, what is the best way of sustaining this partnership? There are many ways, but in my opinion, the following are the most important:

- Regular Visits of two to four people from Recke to Tanzania to see and feel the real problems of the Diocese.
- A planning together between the Diocesan authorities and

Recke on development projects.

- Priorities of the projects to be set up by the Diocesan authorities.
Recke must have an advisory word in setting the priorities.
- Visit of Diocesan authorities to Recke, to meet and talk to the other members who have no chance to come to Tanzania.
- To establish partnership between parishes surrounding the Fürstenberg-Schule and parishes in the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi.
- Later to extend the partnership to the Diocese of Münster and the Diocese of TUNDURU-Masasi.
- To participate (Recke) in discussions with Germany funding agencies to which the Diocese asks some financial assistance for development projects.
- Sometimes to have students from the Fürstenberg-Schule to come to Tanzania and work together in some projects with Tanzanian youth, such as water projects etc.

If these proposals were to be accepted and undertaken, in my opinion, much could be achieved.

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