**MACHAKOS DIOCESE INFORMATION – 2020 MCP**

THE DIOCESE OF MACHAKOS IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN KENYA WITH 83 PARISHES AND OVER 1,200 OUTSTATIONS. TOTAL POPULATION IS ABOUT 2.8 MILLION OF WHICH ABOUT 1.2 MILLION ARE BAPTIZED CATHOLICS. THE DIOCESE LIES IN A SEMI-ARID AREA WHERE THE ANNUAL RAINFALL IS LOW AND UNRELIABLE. DROUGHT, FAMINE & POVERTY ARE CHALLENGES FACED BY MUCH OF THE POPULATION, SINCE THEY DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE FOR THEIR LIVLIHOOD. THE EFFECTS OF MALNUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS IS THE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR MANY YOUNG CHILDREN.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN KENYA HAS A UNIQUE ROLE IN THE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS. IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IS USUALLY ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE CHURCH RATHER THAN OF THE GOVERNMENT. THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE PRAYERS AND SUPPORT OF CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES, THE CHURCH IN MACHAKOS IS GROWING AND IS MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE INCLUDING:

* OPERATING 2 HOSPITALS AND OVER 20 CLINICS/DISPENSARIES.
* DRILLING OF WELLS TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER.
* ESTABLISHING IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMS.
* MAINTAINING 21 GROUP HOMES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN.
* MAINTAINING 4 ORPHANAGES FOR CHILDREN ORPHANED BY HIV/AIDS.
* ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION ISSUES.
* PROVIDING REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR STREET CHILDREN.
* PROVIDING EDUCATION ON PROPER LAND USAGE.
* CONSTRUCTED A PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER NEEDY CHILDREN.

DURING THE PAST YEAR THE GROWTH AND INCREASED VITALITY OF THE CHURCH IN THE MACHAKOS DIOCESE IS REFLECTED IN THE ORDINATION OF 4 DIOCESAN PRIESTS, 4 RELIGIOUS PRIESTS, 5 DIOCESAN DEACONS AND 2 MISSIONARY DEACONS. THE DIOCESE ALSO INITIATED A YEAR OF CELEBRATION OF **THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD**. THIS INCLUDES EVENTS AIMED AT THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL GROWTH OF THE FAMILY, YOUTH AND RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF THE MACHAKOS DIOCESE AND BEYOND.

 **PURPOSES FOR 2020 MCP APPEAL DONATIONS**

1. SUPPORT OF ORPHANAGES AND GROUP HOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUDING PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES FOR 78 ORPHANS AT THE UGANDA MARTYRS HOME
2. PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES FOR NEEDY STUDENTS FROM POOR FAMILIES.
3. SUPPORT FOR ST. PATRICK VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED.
4. SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL METHODS.
5. PURCHASE OF CARS AND MOTORBIKES FOR USE IN PASTORAL WORK OF NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS.
6. ON GOING FORMATION OF CATHECISTS AND LAY LEADERS.
7. PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CARE AND INSURANCE FOR PRIESTS AND SENIOR SEMINARIANS.