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PADRI VJEKO
VTC
KIVUMU

KIVUMU TIMES



Kivumu, Rwanda, January 2015

Dear Friends of Padri Vjeko VTC

Last June 2014 I visited Kivumu together with Fr. Augustinus from the Mission-Office in Dortmund (Germany). It was my second visit after almost twenty years. In 1985 I came from Nairobi, where I stayed for 21 years, together with the Provincial Council to see the development of the Kivumu-Mission: At that time only the Church and the Friary were built and nobody thought of constructing a Vocational Training Centre. Only later Fr. Vjeko had the idea of training the youth in different skills and preparing them for their future according the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says:** "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment (Article 23,1). This Right has now been achieved with the VTC-Kivumu. Therefore it was a great joy for us to meet you - teachers and students – during the Monday-Morning-Assembly listening to your lively songs, watching the moving dance and joining your deep prayers. With gratitude we received your beautiful gifts of self-made T-Shirts and bags. After the assembly we had the opportunity to visit the different training sections where we could witness your eagerness to learn to become [qualified skilled workers](#) in different fields in order to become self-reliant in your near future.

I am happy that the school bears Friar Vjeko's name whom I got to know already in 1983 in Rome during our common preparation for the Africa-Project of the Franciscan Order. Whenever I met Fr. Vjeko afterwards during meetings in Kenya I always appreciated him because of his high ideals and [youthful enthusiasm](#). I prayed at his tomb in your Parish Church, and I am sure that he prays for you and is with you for the further development of the VTC-Kivumu.

Fr. Heinrich Gockel, ofm

THE COWGIVING CEREMONY IN RWANDA

Valens NYAMINANI, Building Section

The cowgiving ceremony is an important part of the Rwandan culture. If there is a cowgiving ceremony, there are also two people who agree on that action. First of all those who agree about that are more than friends. They especially want to share everything in their lives.



On the day of the ceremony, there is a person who is ready to take a cow with his family members and another who is bringing the cow also with his family members and friends who accompany him. The reason for this could be that e.g. a father has given during his lifetime a cow to a very good neighbour who then after some years gives a cow to the son. Or a bridegroom gives a cow to his future father-in-law.

When they reach their fellow's home, they are welcomed. Then there is somebody who is in charge of the welcome speech and the day program in general. On the day program, they do many things which are the following: giving speeches, clapping their hands, reciting poems, giving gifts, dancing, drinking, eating delicious food and so on. At the end of the program the family who got the cow accompany those who brought the cow back home.

I can say that the cowgiving ceremony is a part of our culture that we give big value to in Rwanda. Its importance can be compared to the value of a wedding ceremony.

DESIGNING A CRADLE

Jean Paul HABANABAKIZE, Carpentry Section

My name is Jean Paul HABANABAKIZE, I like to present my favorite job, which is teaching carpentry and woodworking in theory and practice at the Padri Vjeko VTC. There I teach in first and second year carpentry and also at the Technical Secondary School (TSS), but there only the practical work.

First of all I teach safety precautions and how to be careful in the workshop and how to use hand tools safely. In carpentry, there are joint machines which are used for producing different furniture. From my experience I would like to present a new design and conception of a cradle. The picture below shows it: After having observed many existing cradle design we noticed that they all have



the common role of keeping a baby when he/she's sleeping. And when the baby cries, her/his mother is obliged to stop what she has been doing and come to look after her/him. It's in that perspective that I built a new design of cradle which is able to balance the baby instead of carrying it on the back. And the heart you see in the cradle means that the mother always loves her baby when he/she is sleeping.

AGRICULTURE AT THE VTC PADRI VJEKO SCHOOL

Félicité TWAMBAZEMARIYA, English Teacher

Every student and teacher of the VTC Padri Vjeko school takes lunch at school. They eat rice, posho, beans and vegetables. The school has the land and



always, when necessary, the students come to school on Saturdays to cultivate the vegetables such as: carrots, cabbages, green beans, onions, dodo and sometimes beetroot. When they are on the land they feel happy because

they know that they will be able to eat delicious food. During cleaning time, they always go there to look after those vegetables for watering and to put

cow manure around them. The vegetables are most important for everyone.

VTC PADRI VJEKO SCHOOL

Valens MUTUNGIREHE, Welding Section

The VTC (Vocational Training Center) Padri Vjeko was started in 1999 with the following sections: carpentry, tailoring and building. As it was growing also the number of students increased, right now



the school has around 350 students (1st and 2nd year). Since 2009 the school started other new sections: welding, electricity and plumbing. So the VTC Padri Vjeko continues to develop and it gives a great help to the people who live around Kivumu and in other regions of Rwanda where there are youth that are attracted to go there in order to get skills because their friends who finished their studies here and then afterwards were successful. So every year the school gives certificates to those who finish the school. and the school give a party for them.

AVOCADO TREE

Grâce UWAMARIYA, Tailoring Section



A person puts the avocado seed in the soil. Then after some time it appears and grows-up slowly and it becomes bigger with branches and green leaves. Then after some years it produces fruits. In Kivumu

the avocado fruit plays a big role in the life of people because when the fruits are ripe none can feel hungry because it's very delicious and nutritious and also lovely for children. They can sell avocados in the market to get money, which they can use in different ways. For the cosmetics industries they mix them with some other products and make different oils, especially body lotion.

VTC LIBRARY

Brigitte MUKAKANANI, Building Section



Having a library is very important especially for a school and for some other institutions because it helps the students to know many things of the world. In the VTC Padri Vjeko school we are happy to say that it has a very good library where the teachers go to read books getting more knowledge and skills. Even the students come to borrow books in order to improve their knowledge. In that library there are different books such as: English books, dictionaries, grammar books, mathematics books, theory books, song books, different bibles, sciences books and so on.

BEING A TECHNICIAN

Adolphe IYAKAREMYE, Electricity Section

Being a technician consumes a lot of energy because when I am a technician I need to look for a job in order and to improve my knowledge constantly. It means that I don't need to do it without improving my knowledge at the same time. It's better to move around with materials which I need during my work. For example as an electrician it is important to be up to date to a lot of materials which are in the market to recognize good quality of wires, switches and to know how to make new houses which are modern (developed) for the country. Reading theory and to ask advice when it

is possible. I have written this to ask for advice and to get more skills from you.



AGRICULTURE IN KIVUMU

Anysie BARAKAMFITIYE, Electricity Section

In Kivumu village there are a lot of people who earn their living with agriculture activities. And also there are others who do it as business. In general the agriculture in Kivumu is based on these crops: beans, cassava, potatoes, soja, bananas and corn



(maize). The agricultural business is often done in a valley because in a valley there is some possibility to water the plants. The farmers cultivate the corn and soja in different seasons such as summer and rainy season. The government helps the farmers particularly those who do it in a cooperative for getting enough harvest. For a living the people sell

some crops in order to buy other goods like clothes, soap and different domestic tools.

KIVUMU NURSING SCHOOL

Leoncie MUKANYANDWI, Mathematics Teacher

The Nursing School is located in Musengo village near the TSS Padri Vjeko school. There are many students. They are classified according to their ages and the knowledge (skills) they have. The children go to school at seven thirty and they turn back home at eleven thirty. They always enjoy sports on Fridays in their playground. The children go to nursing school for two years. Afterwards they are being sent to primary school and later



they continue their studies in secondary school.

MUSENGO MARKET:

Aphrodis HARERIMANA, Tailoring Section

This market is located in Musengo Village near the tarmac road Muhanga-Kigali. It is a crossing of two roads, there are no buildings neither for traders or customers. People meet every Thursday afternoon.



In that market we can find something which we need like: clothes, shoes, vegetables and other goods. For that reason people come from different areas but especially people from Kivumu. Because

there aren't buildings, it's a problem for every one during rainy season. That is the reason why many people come only in dry season. Traders and customers, all must bring an umbrella, those who don't have one can't come. Consequently the loss comes to everybody (sellers and buyers) because for the sellers their products (goods) can be damaged and for the buyers they miss to buy the food they wanted to cook.

THE NEW SCHOOL: TSS – TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Aphrodis HARERIMANA, Electricity Section



The Padri Vjeko TSS started during the academic year 2014. It has modern buildings and is located in a good place where there is coolness because it is surrounded by forests. When you enter it, it is beauty and it shows a good view. There are different sections such as: carpentry, tailoring, construction and computer science. Students and their teachers are also smart. So welcome to the TSS!

DOVE OF PEACE

Immaculée IYAMBAJE, Secretary

Many people have written about the search for peace, different people have given different descriptions of peace. But the search for peace must begin within ourselves and must include respecting the rights of others.

Let me tell about a man who was a peacemaker. Doctor Martin Luther King lived and died experiencing violence, his life and death shows that one courageous person can move a nation to deeper understanding of nonviolence and peace.

As the young Martin explored the meaning of the gospel's command "turn the other cheek" and love your enemies, he at the same time began to read the history of Gandhi, who had led the people of Indians to freedom and nationhood by nonviolence. Martin became convinced that

nonviolence was what Jesus was talking about when he told his disciples “to turn the other cheek” and “love your enemies”. Martin decided to follow that path and strive to bring freedom and



justice for Afro –American people. Martin and other civil right leaders thought the true power lay in nonviolence. Living peacefully and nonviolently demanded living in the right relationship with GOD and others. So ‘conflicts will continue as long a people refuse to take responsibilities for their feelings, actions and do not try to solve their problems peacefully.’

But when a conflict arises, the people involved can use the following steps to avoid violence and to solve their problems in a nonviolent and peaceful way:

- 1) Identify the problems for all points of view
- 2) Locate resources for help
- 3) Accept responsibilities
- 4) Identify available choices
- 5) Choose the best possible solution to the problem
- 6) Evaluate the action and its consequences

INTERNSHIP FOR STUDENTS OF PADRI VJEKO SCHOOL

Joseph NZIRORERA, Tailoring Section

During their one or two year training every student of VTC Padri Vjeko, before to finish their studies should go in internship to the different places of our country. With the help of so many courses that they had gotten from school, they can work outside area, for example: to build the variety houses, to put on it electricity power and water, to cut the variety metal and to joining them, to make variety fashion of garments. Students should be passing two months, one month and half for tailoring and after they came back at school. As you see on this

picture students say: Internship is very good to us because it's help us in many ways like to know how they can work with others people and to know how



they can look for a job. The reason why their studies courses will help them to get their future life and work hard. “Action is the foundation key to success.”

PLASTIC WATER TANK

Jean de Dieu NIZEYIMANA, Plumbing Section

The tank is an equipment which helps us to store water



hygienically before using it. The water tank can contain the collected rain water or the one supplied by the E.W.S.A (Energy-Water-Sanitation-Authority). In Kivumu the V.T.C Padri

Vjeko has also plastic water tanks which are very useful for everybody. For example, if the water from EWSA is not available, the students can use the water from the tanks, the cooks arrange it like that. So that means that using the water from tanks help us to have water all the time.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A BICYCLE IN RWANDA

Richard MIZERO, Carperntry Section, Trainee

The bike is a means of transport which is cheaper than other vehicles, that is the reason why many Rwandans use it. In Rwanda anyone who has a bicycle uses it so much in several activities for example: In various trips, carrying people or loads, in the way to look for money,.... Although it is much cheaper than a car e.g., it still isn't easy to buy it one. Some Kivumu youth are also developed from riding bicycles. In Rwanda the bicycles have a



great value which the government recognizes by organizing competitions about them.

WELDING PROFESSION IN RWANDA

Innocent NSHIMIYIMANA, Welding Section, Trainee

In Rwanda the profession of welding has a great importance for those who do it. Those who have that profession, they earn a lot of money especially the ones with the ownership of enough tools, like grinder machine and a welding machine which are the most important tools in welding. Most people



in Rwanda are developing well because of the welding profession. When someone wants to build a house, he needs a lot of metal: doors, windows,

roofs, pipes and so on. So so the welders can earn a lot of money. Unfortunately, there isn't any welder who is able to work a long time in this profession because it damages the eyes which is the consequence of not having the best protection.

BEANS

Adélphe UMUHOZA, Tailoring Section



Beans are the plants which you can find also in Kivumu and they are consumed by all people. They are the most important staple food, especially in some families, in schools, institutions, in ceremonies because they are very useful for a meal. It is easy to cultivate because after three months you can already harvest them and dry them, but in one month you can harvest their leaves and cook them as green vegetables and after two months, one can eat the green beans (Imiteja, Imitonore). When the beans are already dried, the people store them in sacks, baskets, in old pots, and other places that can protect them from pests. Someone who has beans cannot go hungry, because in the market they can always be sold to those who live in town and don't cultivate themselves.

GERMAN BREAD

Uta Leymann, Hönne-Berufskolleg, Menden, Germany

As with German cooking, there is not one typical German bread. Each region in Germany has its own specialties and variations. In Northern Germany, dark and heavy breads, such as rye breads, are preferred. In the South, lighter breads made of wheat are the favorites.

The most commonly used flour in German bread baking is rye, either on its own or combined with another flour, such as wheat or spelt. Other very popular ingredients used in German breads include oats, barley, onions, nuts, sunflower seeds, poppy and sesame seeds, cheese, bacon, herbs, and various spices.

Germany as a whole produces by far the most varieties of breads. Over 300 varieties of dark and white breads and over 1,200 varieties of rolls and mini-breads are produced in Germany. I will give two examples:

Sunflower Seed Bread: A dark bread made of rye flour, wheat flour, and sunflower seeds. Sunflower seeds are typically both within the bread and on the crust. This is a favourite bread among the health-conscious because of its high protein and fiber content. It tastes hearty and nutty from the high amount of sunflower seeds. It goes well with just about anything: *wurst*, ham, cheese, jams, or just some butter. It also tastes great toasted - which brings out the nutty aroma from the sunflower seeds.

Dark Bread: Coarsely ground whole rye grain, natural sourdough. *Schwarzbrot* is also often made



with additional ingredients, such as hazelnuts, oatmeal, or sunflower seeds. It has a very strong flavour, its color is a very dark brown, the crumb is moist, it is chewy and a bit crumbly. Great source of many vitamins, minerals, and fiber. It goes well with *wurst* (sausage) and cheese slices or with fried or scrambled eggs and it also tastes great with just some butter. It can also be cut into cubes, roasted in a pan, and enjoyed over soups and salads.

CLASS FOR DESIGN AND TAILORING

Anette Pohl, Teacher for Religious Instruction and Mathematics,

Hönne-Berufskolleg, Menden, Germany

As the the class teacher of the class for design and tailoring at the Hönne-Berufskolleg in Menden, I would like to tell you a little bit about my students.



On the picture you can see some of them in the staffroom, where they sold angel figurines, cookies and other presents for Christmas. In the class there are 22 girls and just one boy. All are between 16 and 21 years old. Most of them still live at home with their families, but five of them have their own flat. One of the girls, Johanna, can walk to school and it takes her only 10 minutes, but Pia and Karen have to take bus and train to reach the school and they need 2 hours. All of the students talk German and English, but some are fluent in Turkish or Russian. Betrice has been born in Ghana and Atchara in Thailand, Asia. The most siblings has Mirac, she has five sisters and Rabia has four brothers. But most students have just one or two siblings. So the class is quite an international community and the students enjoy learning together, especially the practical lessons in tailoring.

The class ABT14 sends heartfelt greetings to the Padri Vjeko VTC in Kivumu!

