

KENYA: Strive to Help the Needy, urges Fr Joya



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SAGANA, March 18, 2014 (CISA) – Rev Fr Hieronymus Joya, the Regional Superior of the Consolata Missionaries, has urged people of goodwill to strive to invest in people and help persons in need for it is a worthwhile cause.

“It is a way of giving thanks to God for our achievements and success in life. We can only count on God’s blessings whenever we support the needy; like the aged women who today need our help,” said Fr Joya.

He outlined the importance of the mother figure in everybody’s life and called for a need to support them which is as a way of expressing our appreciation of their role in our life.

Fr Joya was speaking at St Mary’s Village, Sagana on Saturday March 15, during a fundraising drive in aid of the institution which houses and supports very aged and incapacitated women.

“Today we can count ourselves as able people. Not that the cucus (aged women in Kikuyu) were unable or unsuccessful in life; but it is due to incapacitation, old age, poor health, abandonment by their family member and society. These have reduced them to a state of helplessness and so in need of our continued support irrespective of their race, culture, tribe, or county they come from,” added Fr Joya.

The Regional Superior, on behalf of the Consolata Missionaries donated Ksh 1 million.

The chief guest of honour was Hon Eng Stephen Ngare, the Member of Parliament for Ndia Constituency who rooted out for a funds kitty to assist the vulnerable in the society and urged the government to set up more homes for elderly women at least in every county.

He commended the good job being done by the Consolata Missionaries in taking care of the old women and marveled at their variety; they come from various parts of the country.

Other guests and over 500 well-wishers included, Kirinyaga County Senator Daniel Karaba, Mr Joel Wagura, the County Representative, Kirinyaga and Rev Magdaline, Minister for gender – Kirinyaga county.

The guests also donated wheel chairs, medicines emergency kits and a 10,000 litre water tank in addition to promising their continued support as county leaders in future.

Over Ksh 3 million was raised.

Two of the aged women thanked the Lord for having enabled them have abundant graces. They expressed their joy and gratitude to their caretakers, the Nirmala sisters, who day and night struggle to let them live happily in their old age.

“The care we are given seem like a motherly care to their children- we are treated like babes,” says one.

St Mary’s Village, in Sagana Catholic Parish, was founded by Father James Chiomio in 1974 as a response to the needs of poor aged women.

He started with 14 women and the number kept on increasing up to the current 45. During his time, Father James run St. Mary’s Village using donor funds which has dried up thus the need for the local church to be self-reliant.

Rev Fr Jackson Murugara, the director of the St Mary’s village, was optimistic that after the harambee their many needs would be taken care of.

The money raised was to help in the following areas; General renovation of the houses; and expansion of some facilities, for medicinal support as some are bedridden, fencing the compound, for transport and wheel chairs. Other moneys will be used to hire the services of physiotherapists and Counselors.