

Personal, Spiritual and Social Transformation

The following are comments and reflections shared by the delegates from Homa Bay, Kenya who spent a few weeks as guests in our St. Cloud Diocese in September of 2010; they offer the ways they have been personally, spiritually and socially transformed by the experience.

I was worried on how I would be accepted fully in the host families and feel comfortable as a member of the family. I am overwhelmed with joy and happiness, tender care from the Catholic Christians. I am going to change my environment, farm and give my people an opportunity to share and reflect on what we can do together.



Delegates present gifts to members of their Sister Parish committee in the 5-Parish Community

going to show more love for humanity across races and ethnicity to achieve world peace. I am more receptive to humanity and diversity of cultures.

I was having a lot of misconceptions both positive and negative about Americans. I am going to share my experience with my people so as to bring better understanding about our brothers and sisters in faith from St. Cloud.

The love I experienced from the Christians of a different race revealed to me the uniqueness of the power of prayer. This is a revelation that Christ bonded us together when he died for everybody - white, black or coloured. We all speak the same language of Christ the Savior. God makes all of us equals. Appearances at the host parishes, the pastors, deacons, and lay persons welcomed us so warmly - as if we had been acquaintances before - getting used to one another instantly.

I was doubtful about my destination and the kind of welcome I would receive. I am now much more sure of the love the partners have for the sister parish and the way/steps we want to undertake as we journey together.

I am more loving, faithful, prayerful and committed to serve God. I am less concerned with activities which will benefit me as an individual only.

I was not deeply aware of the very hard work that Americans put together with deep spirituality to reflect a perfect success in human development. I must pray and work hard when I go back. I am



Mary Lou of Rice and Emily of Oriang in Homa Bay Diocese spend time learning about one another and our shared faith

Shortcomings and incapacities are not an excuse to not dedicate time for God's mission. People in faith easily accept one another. I realize that despite differences, the journey towards God is the same.

I have seen God in my daily life, safe journey, and day to day activities in Minnesota, St. Cloud. My faith is strengthened and I will go back to evangelize in my parish and diocese, with all my heart and strength.

I have seen God since I arrived in America. I visited many churches at St. Cloud. Because of the warm welcome I have been built spiritually and strengthened in partnership. I was weak in faith, but I have been transformed.



Dariah of Homa Bay, Kenya meets Adrian, a future delegate to Homa Bay

I will work to empower women and disadvantaged groups technically, spiritually and physically. To be a living example in improving our environment, faith, friendship and leadership for justice to all. To encourage our youth to be strong in their faith.

Change in lifestyle: general world view, environmental concern, greater involvement in partnership activities both at parish as well as diocesan levels, and prayerful life. I will get more involved in church activities, especially works of charity.

I want to manage my time well and extend it to others in my community; to be mindful of the needy and help in enriching others spiritually as well.

Additional Photo Highlights from the 2010 Homa Bay Delegation to St. Cloud



Delegates from Homa Bay experience the largest fresh water lake on a fun day to Duluth



Delegates visit Duluth



Bishop Philip Anyolo of the Diocese of Homa Bay meets a local potato farmer in Sauk Rapids



Old friends Rita Claseman of Mora and Cyprian K'Oywa of Homa Bay are reunited at the Solidarity in Mission Celebration on September 19th



Remaining in the diocese for a few extra days due to airline complications, six delegates got an extra visit to Fair Haven Farms



Thirteen delegates from Homa Bay, along with friends from St. Cloud, display their Fr. John Kaiser memorial T-shirts on this the 10th anniversary year of the death of this great man who was beloved by both St. Cloud and Homa Bay Dioceses