

Our guest speaker Fr. JASON MICHENI from Kenya. The following is a summary of his address -

□ He is a Rotarian from the Rotary club of Meru, Meru county, Kenya, District 9212. His classification is clergy. He is a Catholic Priest. He became a Rotarian In January 2007. In his Rotary club in Meru Kenya, he is directly in charge of all activities initiated by the Rotary Clubs of D9810. This involves principally the milking cow and goat projects.

□ The milking cow project commenced in 2009. Holstein/Friesian cows were donated to provide milk for vulnerable children and orphans who board at school. By the end of 2010 they had 5 heifers in calf. A donation was received which allowed them to build a new cowshed for 4 cows. There is now a surplus of milk and this is sold to provide boosters, medicine for deworming and chemicals for spraying

□ Toggenburg milking goats. This project started in 2011 and they now have 75 families with goats. The milk is very nutritious for weak children.

□ Many needy children have been identified who need special attention. Funding was obtained which provided for the construction of a new boy's dormitory and some school desks. They now have about 1200 pupils in four schools. Their health is better, and their education has improved.

□ Through a global grant a goat breeding farm was set up in Kizima. (Our Club gave USD\$3000 towards this project). Approximately 72 goats are sold each year, with the proceeds being used to support and maintain the project, support pupils and orphans with clothing, provide education, medication and upkeep.

□ The Mutunyi Farmer's Training Centre has been set up to train farmers by equipping them with modern methods of farming, improving their diet, providing stability of food security and creating an environment for economic empowerment. Activities include the making of dams, the use of incubators (for chicken hatching), construction of beehives and three fishponds. The next part of the project will see the planting of fruit trees such as bananas, oranges, papaya, lemons & avocado.

□ The next major project is to purchase a tractor with multi-purpose accessories. A global grant application for USD\$150,000 has been applied for. The tractor will be serviced locally. A qualified tractor driver is being sourced. Local farmers will be able to book the tractor at a reasonable rate.

This will enable farmers to cultivate land without involving children (who will be able to continue their education). A major benefit will be the ability to cut and store silage/hay to feed out in the dry season.

Father Jason, President Sue Mills and Project Leader Tony Hough

