

SJT—Community Peace service

Muringato, 26/03/2024

Dear Sisters,

warm greetings from Muringato. I hope you are doing well and are having a blessed Holy Week.

I have been in Nyeri since the beginning of November, my family and I have overcome some hurdles to settle in well, a few still lie ahead of us.

We are very happy to be here and I really enjoy working with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes.

During my preparation in Germany, I intensively studied the Civil Peace Service. During these months with you, I was able to experience how closely the Civil Peace Service is linked to the Charism of the SJT. Peace and community building are inseparable in everyday life. When community is created, especially when it is supported by faith and the love of God, it is a sign of peace.

Community Peace Service therefore fits very well for your joint work.

With this in mind, I would like to tell you about these first months in Kenya and the work of Sr. Josephine and myself, to let you participate in the Community Peace Programme, as it is our common project to which everyone can contribute through their ideas, their work and specially through their prayers.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Kind regards

Mareike

We visited several communities in November and December. In some cases, my family accompanied us so that all three of us could get to know the sisters, their lives and their work. We were very touched to see how each of you is committed to the people in the different communities and villages and how passionately you fulfil your

mission on a daily basis. We also met with very open ears and hearts to find out how you work in the field of peace building and where you come up against limits - some due to social structures or ethnic groups and others due to the need for personal training and development. Thank you very much!

With all that we have heard and based on the experiences you have already had working with the previous CPS worker Manuela also, we had a meeting with the Provincial Sr Agnes in February and conducted a conflict analysis workshop in Nessuit, Kipsaraman and Mukothima. Nessuit and Kipsaraman were already pilot locations in 2021, although the medical camp was only started in Nessuit for special reasons.

In **Nessuit**, we had the opportunity to participate in the medical camp and experience how many people accept the offer and what the local team does to provide holistic care for the people. All in the spirit of peace work - physical recovery through the commitment of the medical team and dialogue on peace issues by the JPC volunteers of Njoro Parish.





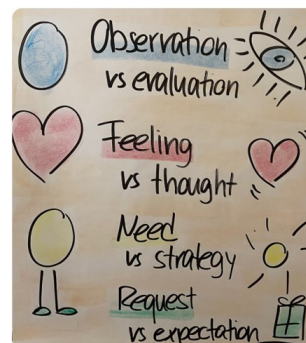
We conducted a third conflict analysis workshop in **Mukothima**, where we worked out the current challenges and conflicts with the sisters, teachers, students and other staff. The participants not only had ideas for a pilot project in peace work, the sisters have already started a peace club in school in January 2024. We were very pleased to hear this.



In **Kipsaraman**, the participants told us about the ongoing conflicts and the urgency of peace work. Here, too, there is a desire to start a social-medical camp as an entry point for peace work.



We have also started the CPS programme at the Formation House in **Muringato**. The novices have had lessons since January and the postulants since the end of February. The new candidates are still settling in and so we had our first meeting this week. The topic for the novices and postulants so far has been non-violent communication according to Marshall Rosenberg. I really enjoyed working together on these topics and dealing with communication skills as an aspect of peace work.



non-violent communication
 People are happy to contribute to the wellbeing of others if
 • they can do this voluntarily
 • there are no conflicting needs of their own
 • they can trust that their needs will be taken into account