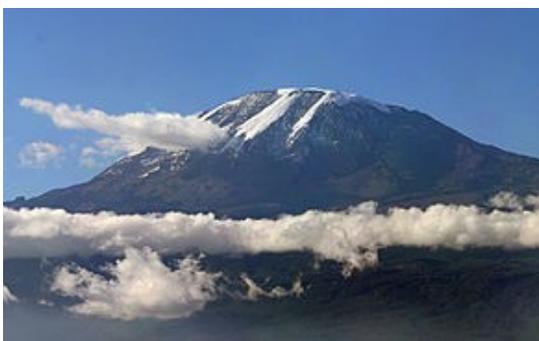




Tanzania



The United Republic of Tanzania is located on the east coast of Africa. The country was formed in the early 1960's when the countries of Zanzibar and Tanganyika merged after they became independent from Britain. In land area, Tanzania is six times the size of the state of Georgia; the population is six times that of Georgia's. Tanzania's land area includes three islands: Mafia, Pemba, and Zanzibar. The capital of Tanzania is Dodoma.



The Kibo Summit, or peak, of Mount Kilimanjaro

Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and fourth highest in the world, is located in northeastern Tanzania. It towers above the countryside at almost 4 miles tall!

Tanzania is the largest and most densely populated country in East Africa; most people live along the coastline or in the northern area of the country. It is also the most linguistically diverse: although Swahili is the national language, there are over 100 different languages spoken in the country.

Almost 62% of all Tanzanians are Christian, with the majority of them being Roman Catholic; 35% are Muslim while the rest of the population follow either a folk religion or have no religion at all.

Although education is compulsory in Tanzania until 15 years old, most children leave school after the primary grades. Because of this, less than 70% of Tanzanians over the age of 15 can read and write.

According to the *Global Hunger Index*, almost 70% of Tanzanians live below the poverty line of \$1.25 a day. A third of the population is malnourished and only half of them have access to clean drinking water; less than a quarter of Tanzanians have sanitary bathroom facilities. This leads to a high occurrence of many water-borne illnesses such as typhoid or hepatitis A.

MCA in Tanzania

Because there is only one trained doctor for every 25,000 people, most people, especially vulnerable children in rural areas, have little access to healthcare.

Recently, the Vatican office of the Missionary Childhood Association told us how help from its' members worldwide is making a difference for children in the Diocese of Iringa in Tanzania.

Covering a land area over six times the size of the Archdiocese of Boston, the Diocese of Iringa is home to a little over half a million Catholics. This means that priests, sisters, brothers, and lay catechists have to travel great distances to bring the faith and service of the Church to her people.

The situation for the children of the area is harsh, especially in the very rural, hard to reach areas. They are very poor, hungry, and suffer from marasmus, which is severe undernourishment that causes a child to be significantly underweight.

The Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo are running the Saint Charles Health Center in the Diocese of Iringa. They are helping children of different age groups according to their needs. The Sisters provide medical and nutritional care for the children along with health education for new mothers so that even the youngest of babies can have a

healthy start. Children come to the Health Center and stay for an average of two weeks. The Sisters provide follow up services and see an improvement in the children's school performance, study habits, and overall health.

The Sisters also serve the local orphan community—many children in the area have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS and need physical and emotional support. They receive many things because of MCA's support of the Sisters: school uniforms and educational materials; basic hygienic items; food and clothing; and most importantly, the loving care of the missionary Sisters.



Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo and the children they serve in Tanzania

Photo Credit: <http://stcharlesgeneralate.org/>

At last report, Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) members sent \$8,000 to the Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo so that they could care for orphans. In return, MCA members of Tanzania sacrificed \$39,333.51 so that other children in the missions could receive the same loving care from missionaries that they do!

Missionary Childhood Association

66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184 | Tel: 617.779.3871 | Fax: 617.542.1778

www.propfaithboston.org | mheil@propfaithboston.org