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Pax et Bonum

MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH  
OF FRANCIS St. FRIARY  
ASMARA - ERITREA

Date 29/11/2011

Dear Mr. Mike Slinn,

I am the Parish Priest of the Holy Redeemer Church located in the city of Asmera, Eritrea. This letter and others following will come to you through Mr. Zerayacob Tesfazgy, one of the members of the Parish Council of the Laity. As a previous staff of the UN, he is privileged to use the fast and secure satellite internet facility provided by the UN Office here.

On the other hand the dial-up internet facility available for the public at large is extremely slow and most of the time near to impossible to establish connections. At the same time it is not that secure. Please note that all communication between us needs to be confidential in order to avoid wrong interpretation by third parties.

Sister Saba, whose Convent is located within our Parish, has forwarded to us your e-mail message dated November 3, 2011. She has confirmed to us that she has already replied positively and informed you that we would establish communication soon. This is therefore a follow up to her message as we strongly believe that this is a very good opportunity to the young of our Parish to learn from and share knowledge with other youth. We need to explore how best to establish communication amongst the youth and we shall inform you later on.

The Parish of the Holy Redeemer Church is one of the seven Parishes in Asmera City. These and some 70 other Parishes outside the City make up the Eparchy of Asmera. Our Parish oversees other Churches and Chapels within the Parish such as Saint Anthony of Godaif, Philippine Sisters' Chapel at Campo Bollo, and Capuccini Sisters' Chapel at Tiravolo and the chalice of the Immaculate Conception in the compound of the Orota Hospital.

A youth centre known as "Selam weSenai" that is "Pax et Bonus" has been established a while back as a focal point to facilitate religious teachings to the young and also to establish a church choir to enhance the participation of the faithful in the liturgy of the mass during Sunday and Holiday worship prayers. This gradually developed to include various activities such as sports, religious outings, and various religious activities geared to enrich the Christian life of the youth themselves and in a limited way their families and neighbourhoods.

In 2009 this was organized into a formal "Council of the Youth" with its bylaws and an organizational structure that includes all the youth from age 15 up to 35 subdivided into groupings according to age.

The Council of the Laity which whose members are elected from representative of all the various interests of the Community is working hard to expand the activities of the youth even more in order to create a healthy environment of learning, recreation and cultural development. In view of that we have just opened a small library within the grounds of the Church and are working on establishing an internet café for the use of the young.

We shall give you more information in subsequent communications and in the mean time we would appreciate to learn more from your side with regard to your activities.

With best wishes

Father Simon Ghebrendrias  
Parish Priest

