

Savio Club 10 Jahre alt – Gruß von Fr. Jose Padinjareparapil

Dr Alfons, greetings. I am sorry that I am late to send you a few lines. I am still in the hospital. It is a great day to remember that we have finished 10 full years of the Savio Club program. When I reached Kakuma in 2014 to begin my time of service there and saw the situation of the children there I got this desire to do something for them to make them excellent smart children, and I thought that parish is the best place where these children could feel at home. We continued with the prayers of the rosary in the evening and slowly developed this program which developed itself into what the Savio club is today. We started, as you yourself have said, with the first station, then added another one, then added another one, until we reached 9 centres. We have been able to reach thousands of children. These children, so many of them are already young people today, excelled in their studies. I remember already in the first year of Savio Club when the school children had done their examinations head teachers from the primary schools used to tell us that those who were in Savio Club hold first, second, third position in the school. I thought that was the best affirmation of what this program was doing. We concentrated on giving them English, Maths and some training in hygiene because that was something very important in the camp. We also had one lesson on prayers because they were our children in Parish. Every day towards the end of the class, the children with their teachers would pray the holy Rosary.

Many of the children had a chance to study in the primary schools, but we also know that some of the classrooms used to have even over 100 students. sometimes the teachers won't have enough space even to get in to teach through the door, they go through the window something we might laugh at, but that was reality in the camp. In this situation what and how much could they learn? In that situation what we were doing was very useful and meaningful for them and many children profited from it.

I remember coming to you with this idea and how you encouraged me to start this program and you with the group that supported you there in Germany to raise funds needed to have this program run smoothly. I was very much encouraged by the attitude that you and the group showed that whatever comes we will continue supporting Savio Club. Savio Club functioned well because all the people involved like the trainers, the supervisors and all the church leaders involved in gathering the children, the parents themselves and the Salesian community gave their total collaboration to this program and that is why I can say this program has succeeded because everyone collaborated in it. I take this chance to thank you for being the engine behind this. I thank your group that is there supporting you, the Salesian community, which accepted this program, all the church leaders, the teacher, and the children themselves who thought it good for them to have these lessons. We know for sure that they were able to do their studies better, better in the society, they were also behaving better, seen better and admired for better hygiene, with a better sense of God. I believe that in the future, they will feel themselves attached to the church and attached to the values that they were taught through this program. May God bless all those who supported this program. Thank you.

12. März 2025