



Change for Change

Lenten Almsgiving to
Benefit Orphans in

Moshi, Tanzania

Change for Change is a

Lenten Almsgiving Campaign co-sponsored by the families of Religious Education and St. Joseph School in conjunction with the parish Human Concerns Commission to benefit the orphans of the Stella Maris School in Moshi, Tanzania. This project will take the place of the ARK/Heifer project that we have contributed to for the past 12 years.

The emerging and worsening AIDS crisis in the town of Moshi, Tanzania and its surrounding rural area is creating an expanding group of orphans with little hope and dim prospects for a brighter future. Moshi is a relatively tranquil, fertile and beautiful area situated on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, but much like most areas of Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa, its largely agrarian economy is stagnant and produces little more than the minimal food the areas residents require.

What happens to these orphans? Some are taken in by extended families, some of whom have the resources to provide them adequate care and education. Others become street children, surviving off handouts and petty crime. In Moshi the number of street children has doubled to 1,000 in the past 2 years. The future for these children is very bleak.

In 2005, St. Joseph Parish, under the direction of Fr. Val Laini and his brother, Fr. Augustine Kawishe, a Catholic priest of the Mailisita district of Moshi, Tanzania launched its International Sharing Ministry to focus on the plight of a growing number of orphaned children due to the AIDS crisis in the town of Moshi.

In 2007, a partnership was forged with the Mailisita Foundation (www.mailisitafoundation.org) and leaders of both parishes who decided to design, develop and build a school. This January the school successfully opened to 40 children who receive a primary education. Fundraising continues in the hope of eventually supporting the education of 300 children.

Students and families in Religious Education and St. Joseph School will be receiving a plastic jar in which to put coins and money for the benefit of the Moshi Orphans attending the Stella Maris School. The *Change for Change* campaign will officially kick-off at Religious Education Sessions on *Sunday, February 21* and *Tuesday, February 23rd* and at St. Joseph School Prayer Service on *Tuesday, February 23rd*. Each week students are asked to empty the jar and bring the change in a baggie to their catechist or teacher. Then after Easter, **we ask that all “change” jars be returned** (empty or full). Should you like to make a donation to this campaign, checks may be made payable to St. Joseph Church. Please indicate “*Orphans of Moshi*” in the memo. Thank you!

