

THE HISTORY OF HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH, SERERIT

A Journey of Faith, Mission and Service in the Ndoto Mountains

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Sererit, is one of the remarkable missionary communities of the Catholic Diocese of Maralal. Situated in the remote Ndoto Mountains of northern Samburu, the parish grew from a pioneering missionary initiative into a permanent Catholic presence serving the pastoralist communities of Sererit and the surrounding areas.

The history of Sererit is inseparably linked to the missionary dedication of the Missionaries of the Consolata, particularly **Fr. Aldo Giuliani, IMC**, who established the mission in 1999 and has remained its principal pastoral figure since its foundation.

Sererit represents a later chapter in the long history of Catholic evangelization in Samburu. Whereas the historic Baragoi Mission dates back to 1952, Sererit was established almost five decades later to bring the Church closer to communities living in the remote Ndoto Mountains.

The Establishment of Sererit Mission.

The Catholic Church established the Sererit Mission in **1999** in the Ndoto Mountains.

The initiative was pioneered by **Fr. Aldo Giuliani, IMC**, a Missionary of the Consolata who had already spent many years serving the people of northern Kenya.

The decision to establish a mission at Sererit responded to the pastoral and human needs of communities living far from established Catholic centres. The people lived in scattered pastoralist settlements, making regular access to church services, education and health care difficult.

Fr. Aldo therefore began the mission from a very modest foundation.

He established a place where the people could gather for prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, while simultaneously working to address practical needs affecting the community.

The mission quickly became a centre not only of evangelization but also of health care, education, water provision and humanitarian assistance.

A historical account of Sererit records that the Catholic Church inaugurated the mission in 1999 and that it was placed under the leadership of Fr. Aldo Giuliani as parish priest.

Fr. Aldo Giuliani — Founder and Pioneer

The name of **Fr. Aldo Giuliani, IMC**, is permanently associated with the history of Sererit.

Fr. Giuliani arrived in Kenya in 1968 and dedicated his missionary life to the people of northern Kenya. Over the years, he served in different parts of the region before establishing the Sererit Mission.

When he arrived at Sererit in 1999, the area had very limited infrastructure.

The early years required determination and personal sacrifice. Fr. Aldo worked to establish the basic structures necessary for a permanent mission. The first facilities included a church, accommodation, a kitchen and a nursery school, alongside the dispensary that became an important service to the local community.

The missionary presence gradually transformed the area.

Fr. Aldo's approach was one of practical evangelization. He did not separate the proclamation of the Gospel from the needs of the people. Water, education, healthcare and assistance to vulnerable families became part of the mission's service.

His ministry has consequently left a lasting mark on the people of Sererit and the wider Ndoto region.

The Mission's First Years

The early Sererit Mission faced the challenges common to missionary work in remote northern Kenya.

The terrain was difficult, communities were widely dispersed, and pastoralists frequently moved with their livestock in search of pasture and water.

The missionaries therefore had to travel to the people rather than expect the people to come to the mission centre.

Catechists became essential partners in this work. They helped maintain Christian communities in distant settlements, taught catechism, prepared people for the sacraments and facilitated communication between the missionaries and the local population.

The Church gradually became part of the life of the community.

Water: A Major Missionary Contribution.

Water became one of the defining features of the Sererit Mission.

The mission is located near the Ndoto Mountains, where natural springs provided an opportunity to develop a reliable water supply.

Fr. Aldo worked with local communities to develop water systems that could bring clean water from mountain sources closer to the people.

Historical accounts describe the laying of several kilometres of water pipes from a clean mountain spring to the mission and nursery school. A public water point was also made available to the wider community.

Water projects later extended to communities in areas including **Maragi, Lkitagesi, Naisunyu, Sererit and Latakweny.**

For communities accustomed to travelling considerable distances for water, these projects had a profound impact.

Women and children, in particular, benefited from having water available closer to their homes and schools.

The water ministry became a powerful expression of the Church's commitment to human dignity and integral development.

Healthcare and the Sererit Dispensary

Healthcare was another important pillar of the mission.

From its early years, the Sererit Mission established a dispensary to provide basic medical services to the local population.

Before the mission's health services were established, residents often had to travel long distances to reach medical facilities.

The dispensary therefore became an important institution in the community, providing access to basic healthcare closer to home.

The Sererit Catholic Dispensary continues to serve the local population as a faith-based health facility.

The missionary vision behind the dispensary was clear: evangelization had to be accompanied by care for the physical and social wellbeing of the people.

Education and the Children of Sererit

Education also became a central component of the Sererit Mission.

When the mission began, many children in the area had limited access to formal education because of the remoteness of their communities and the pastoral lifestyle of their families.

Fr. Aldo and the mission therefore supported educational opportunities for children.

The establishment of a nursery school provided an important first step in creating access to early childhood education.

Over the years, the mission expanded its support for education through assistance to students and scholarships.

A historical account of the mission records that scholarships have supported more than 200 students studying in colleges and universities in Nairobi and other centres.

The educational ministry has consequently helped open opportunities for young people from communities that previously faced significant barriers to education.

Fr. Albert Letaon — A Diocesan Priest Who Served at Sererit

The development of Sererit also reflects the growing participation of diocesan clergy in the pastoral mission of the area.

Among the diocesan priests who served alongside Fr. Aldo Giuliani was **Fr. Albert Letaon**.

Fr. Albert served as an assistant to Fr. Aldo during the Sererit mission's development. A historical account describing the work of Fr. Aldo specifically refers to his assistant, Albert Letaon, and recounts how the two travelled to remote manyattas to provide services to the people.

Fr. Albert's contribution forms part of the transition from a mission principally associated with the Missionaries of the Consolata to an increasingly locally led Catholic community.

His service also illustrates the collaboration between missionary priests and diocesan clergy in building the Church in remote areas of the Diocese of Maralal.

From Mission to Parish

The Sererit Catholic community continued to develop after the mission was established.

In **2000**, Sererit became formally established as a parish.

The parish was dedicated to the **Most Holy Trinity** and became part of the pastoral structure serving northern Samburu.

Its development marked an important transition. Sererit was no longer simply a pioneering missionary station but an established Catholic parish with its own pastoral identity and responsibilities.

Today, Sererit is part of the **Baragoi Deanery of the Catholic Diocese of Maralal**, together with St. Francis Xavier Baragoi, Tuum and South Horr parishes.

The Patron of the Parish: The Most Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish takes its name from the central mystery of the Christian faith: the **Most Holy Trinity — God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, one God in three Persons**.

The patronage gives the parish a profound spiritual identity.

The Trinity is a mystery of communion, love and unity. It reminds the faithful that Christian life is rooted in relationship with God and expressed through love and unity with one another.

For a parish serving communities in a remote and diverse environment, the message of unity and communion is particularly significant.

The parish is therefore called not only to grow in faith but also to become a community of reconciliation, love and service.

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

The feast of the parish's patron is the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**, celebrated by the Catholic Church on the **Sunday after Pentecost**.

Because the date of Easter changes each year, the feast does not fall on a fixed calendar date.

For the people of Sererit, the feast is an occasion of thanksgiving for the history of their Christian community and for the missionary work that has sustained the Church since 1999.

It is also an opportunity to remember the priests, catechists, religious and lay faithful who have contributed to the growth of the parish.

A Mission of Integral Human Development

From its foundation, Sererit has demonstrated that Catholic mission is not confined to the church altar.

The mission has served the whole community through spiritual ministry as well as practical initiatives.

Water projects have improved access to clean water. The dispensary has provided healthcare. Educational programmes have opened opportunities for children and young people. Humanitarian support has assisted communities during periods of drought and hardship.

During severe droughts, the parish has also provided food assistance to vulnerable communities. The mission has supported people facing difficulties accessing government services and has employed local people in parish-related work.

These initiatives form part of the wider Catholic understanding of evangelization: proclaiming the Gospel while defending human dignity and serving the needs of the community.

Sererit and the Samburu People

The missionary work in Sererit has been deeply rooted in the Samburu community.

The missionaries have lived among the people, travelled to their manyattas, learned their way of life and worked with local leaders and catechists.

This relationship has enabled the Church to understand the realities facing pastoralist families.

The mission's work has extended beyond the immediate Catholic community and has touched the lives of many people regardless of their religious affiliation.

The availability of water, healthcare, education and humanitarian assistance has made the mission an important institution within the wider Sererit community.

A Continuing Missionary Presence

The story of Sererit is also a story of continuity.

The Missionaries of the Consolata established the mission and provided the initial missionary leadership.

Fr. Aldo Giuliani has remained at the heart of the mission from its establishment in 1999, continuing to serve the people and guide the parish's pastoral and development activities.

Diocesan priests have also participated in this ministry. Fr. Albert Letaon is remembered as one of the diocesan priests who served as assistant to Fr. Aldo.

This collaboration demonstrates how the Catholic Church in Samburu has gradually developed from a missionary Church into a local Church increasingly supported and led by diocesan clergy.

Fr. Aldo Giuliani: Still Serving Sererit

More than two decades after he established the Sererit Mission, **Fr. Aldo Giuliani, IMC, continues to serve as the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Sererit.**

His continued presence gives Sererit a unique connection to its beginnings.

The priest who established the mission in 1999 remains part of the parish community today.

For the people of Sererit, this represents more than continuity of leadership. It is a living link between the original missionary foundation and the present-day parish.

Fr. Aldo's decades of service have made him a familiar and respected figure among the communities of the Ndoto Mountains.

His ministry has touched generations through pastoral care, education, healthcare, water projects and humanitarian assistance.

The Parish Today

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Sererit, remains an important Catholic presence in the northern part of Samburu County.

Its pastoral mission includes the celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments, catechesis, prayer, Christian formation, family and youth ministry, education, healthcare, community development and peacebuilding.

The parish continues to serve communities spread across a challenging geographical environment.

Its history demonstrates how a small mission established in a remote mountain region can develop into a permanent Christian community whose influence extends far beyond its physical boundaries.

A Legacy of Faith and Service

The story of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Sererit, cannot be separated from the people who made the mission possible.

It belongs to Fr. Aldo Giuliani, who established the mission and has served it for more than two decades.

It belongs to the priests who assisted him, including diocesan priests such as Fr. Albert Letaon.

It belongs to the catechists who carried the Gospel to distant manyattas.

It belongs to the religious sisters and lay workers who contributed to education, healthcare and pastoral work.

It belongs to the families who welcomed the Church and raised their children in the Catholic faith.

And it belongs to the young people whose education and formation continue to shape the future of Sererit.

Looking to the Future

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish enters the future carrying a remarkable missionary heritage.

The mission established in 1999 has survived and grown because of a combination of faith, sacrifice, service and community participation.

Its story shows that the Church can take root even in the most remote places when missionaries are willing to live among the people and respond to both their spiritual and human needs.

As Sererit celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the parish gives thanks for more than two decades of missionary presence and service.

It remembers with gratitude all the priests, religious, catechists and lay faithful who have contributed to its journey.

Above all, it gives thanks to God for the gift of faith and for the continued presence of the Church among the people of the Ndoto Mountains.

From the first missionary steps of 1999 to the parish community of today, the journey continues.

Most Holy Trinity, one God in three Persons, bless the people of Sererit.

Most Holy Trinity, strengthen our faith and unity.

Most Holy Trinity, guide Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Sererit, into the future.

Amen.