

## **BREAKING BREAD WITH THE BISHOP**

### ***Continued***

When asked about a particular focus for his Diocese and the source of its continued growth he replied that their commitment to the children and young people in their congregations was their primary commitment. He talked at length about the educational support and catechesis of the young as a shared commitment amongst all his congregations. One felt that some of his own commitment to this ministry comes from the obvious joy and support he takes from his own home as a boy.

As a boy Bishop Korir grew up in a large family, as did his wife Selline. There are 23 children in Selline's family and the bishop has 13 siblings, 5 brothers, and 8 sisters. He was the oldest boy. There was poverty. He said as a boy sometimes when everyone came home, his mother would tell them there is no supper tonight. But tomorrow will be another day. He didn't get his first pair of shoes until he was 16. School was 5 kilometers going and coming every day. He would carry his shoes as he walked and put them on when he arrived at school. That way, as his father told him, the shoes might last for four years. He said this going and coming, carrying his shoes, taught him the value of property. He said this same understanding of the value of material things and their relative value in relation to other values lives on in his father. He said he once said to Sellina, "I think it is time we brought electricity to my parents' home." When he shared this with his father, his father said, "You could do that but look at what others need—we can do without electricity."

Selline Korir is a wonderful Christian leader in her own right and shared as much again when she spoke to us about Christian life and fellowship in Kenya. She is committed to several missions and projects in the Church that she shared with us and the joys she finds in them. I came away thinking she is the kind of resourceful person who could turn water into wine if was needed. She gave a sense of having a lot of insight not only into the life of the congregations but into the realities and forces shaping contemporary Kenya. It was lovely to see how Sellina and Bishop Paul deferred to one another.

I came away from lunch feeling that some of the grace of God bestowed on this couple had touched me and encouraged me in faith. I was impressed also, and as always, by the hospitality and vitality of the congregation of the Church of Our Saviour.