

# 2014

Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province



## [GONZAGA PREP & PRIMARY SCHOOL]

SCHOOL PROFILE JUNE 2014

## **Brief History**



Gonzaga Preparatory and Primary School in Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania was formed during the 10th anniversary celebrations of Loyola High School in 2005. A community service programme was initiated as a way of marking the 10th anniversary of Loyola High School. The program allowed students of the school to render different services to disadvantaged members of the community in Mabibo.

For instance, students took part in cleaning and engaging with orphans at the Sara

Cobet orphanage centre, which was run by Mr. Lihangwike Komba. At that time, the orphanage had 4 separate buildings that had no desks, washroom facilities or a canteen. Many of the children who attended the school had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, passed on from their deceased parents.

During the anniversary celebrations, Mr. Patrick Doherty and his family along with other friends from Our Lady Queen of Peace Foundation, Canada visited the orphanage and the Jesuits working in Dar-es Salaam and Dodoma. After seeing the suffering of the children in the area they decided to enter into a partnership with the Jesuits to build Gonzaga Preparatory and Primary School.

The school building was completed in 2008 and saw its first intake of students on 14th January the same year. 200 students from Pre-Standard One to standard Three joined the school that year. Gonzaga Preparatory and Primary School was officially inaugurated by His Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, the Archbishop of Dar-es Salaam Archdiocese on 26th January 2008.

## **Students and Staff**

Gonzaga Preparatory and Primary School is a Catholic school which offers education to both girls and boys in Mabibo area and beyond. Their education is based on the characteristics of Jesuit education; students are encouraged to strive for excellence within the school



community as well as outside the school. Presently the school has 515 students (227 girls and 288 boys) and 41 members of staff. Students come from outside the area of Mabibo as well as Dar-es Salaam's SOS Children's Village. Some of them are orphans or come from poor families.

### **Curriculum**



The school curriculum is based on the Tanzanian Primary Education curriculum. Subjects taught at the school include Civics, English, French, Geography, Science, History, ICT, Kiswahili, Mathematics, and Personality Development and Sports. All subjects with the exception of Kiswahili are taught in English preparing students for secondary school which is only taught in English.

### **School Mission**

The school mission is inspired by the tradition of Jesuit education. Gonzaga Preparatory & Primary school educates young people to become morally responsible men and women for others who think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to advance the common good.

**School motto:** Education for love and service.

### **Funding**

Gonzaga Prep and Primary school completely depends on school fees, though many students and their families are often unable to pay these. Gonzaga therefore struggles to consistently meet the needs of its pupils. For example, there are fewer textbooks than students and pupils often need to share. In some cases only the teacher has a copy of the textbook. From time to time the school receives support from the Jesuit Mission Office in Dublin for some necessary projects.





*Left: The school Library; Right: Recently completed ICT Lab*

Gonzaga Prep & primary depends entirely on school fees of which majority of the students are unable to afford. Thus Gonzaga struggles to consistently meet the needs of its pupils. For example, there are fewer textbooks than students and pupils often have to share. In some cases only the teacher has a copy of the textbook. The school also requires a school bus to ease transportation of students to and from school.

**To support any of our projects, contact: [develop.aor@gmail.com](mailto:develop.aor@gmail.com)**

**Visit <http://www.gonzagaprimary.sc.tz/> for more details on Gonzaga Prep & Primary School**