

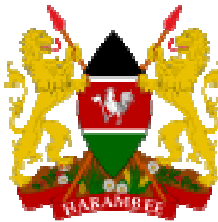
FRIENDS OF ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL: and: ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL

THE CHILDREN OF FATHER ANTONIO GIANELLI

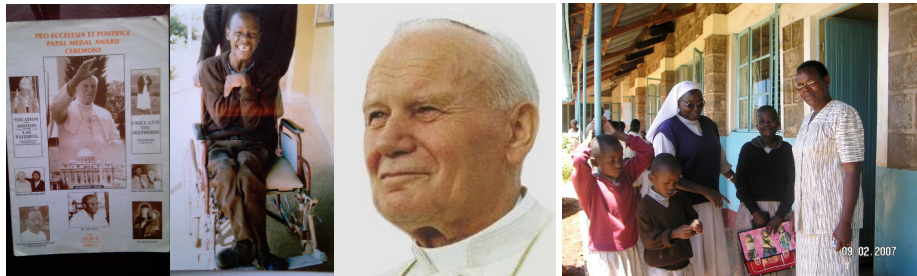
Some could not speak, and some could not walk, and yet some appeared to struggle with coordinated breath, some could not control salivating, and still some could not feed themselves, as their limbs had failed them: AND: there was one young girl on a makeshift wooden wheelchair that could not see: AND: then one John kiongo who had cerebral palsy, he sat cowed and fear-full on one corner even as Fr Antonio Gianelli introduced him. But John Kiongo had lost faith in the goodness of humanity and had lived through it all, he just could not trust anymore. These are all graces and faculties most of us take for granted until we lose them. These are the images that I saw on that Sunday August 10th 1996. I would later capture some on now old fashioned VHS Video tapes, and on now old fashioned film cameras. They were the days before the now widespread World Wide Web-
WWW.& Laptop WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org Some of those who were born in, or live in “developed or developing” countries or cultures may find the above scenario difficult to comprehend. Society has protected us from such shocking IMAGES.



Late1980s and Early 1990s



Late1990s and Early2000s



In 1999 the **Allamano Special School** for Mentally and Physically handicapped children was awarded the “PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE” gold medallion by the late Pope John Paul II, providing a MILE MARKER in what was deemed a challenge into the 21st century’s, approach to Disabilities. Advancing the course of Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities/*retardation* by addressing their Spiritual, social, Mental, and physical challenges and requirements in society, through research and information dissemination, locally and Internationally.[In the above photo, alongside the Pro Ecclesia Gold Medallion is **John Kiongo**, one of the first in the Petto class, he had cerebral palsy and was a model of the transformative initiatives at **Allamano special school**.]

<http://newhomesforvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/AIF-Magazine-Complete.pdf>

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This script for the website WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org is written on 21st January, commemorating the 160th birthday of the founder of the Consolata Missionary Institute, which marked its 110 years anniversary on January 29th 2011, 10 years after the passing on of Fr Antonio Gianelli on 23rd January 2001, and Fr Rossi Ricardo on December 7th 2000 and into the 85th anniversary of **Allamano day, February 16th**, which is celebrated at **Allamano Special school** annually. It marks 14 years since 8th December 1996 when the 'Friends of Allamano' was muted. It is a SPECIAL TRIBUTE to ALL benefactors.

It is a WORK IN PROGRESS and an effort to apply advances in technology to address issues that impact on the plight of the mentally and physically handicapped in society. It is partly based on reflections and memories of the initial wretchedness of the children of Allamano Special School Children in Kenya East Africa for whom Fr Antonio Gianelli IMC shed tears in 1996 as he desperately sought ways and means of sensitizing and involving the community in a project over which he had committed himself, at a time when doctors had advised him that he did not have much time left to live. It is this DREAM and VISION that is passed on for Today's and Future generations, by offering a forum for sharing and exchange of knowledge, information and resources that advance this course.

SIMPLE BEGINNINGS LEADING TO GREAT INITIATIVES @ ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL for MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN

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Above: The Children of Allamano special school with their Teachers and caretakers. On the extreme right is Sister Mercellina Muthoni SMI- [<http://www.msomi.org/> Sisters of Mary Immaculate]-the Head teacher who took over the administration of the Allamano Special School after the departure of the Consolata Missionaries Fr Antonio Gianelli and Fr Rossi Ricardo. John kiongo in wheel chair. The Daughters of Saint Anne [<http://www.daughtersofsaintanne.org/>] were the very first congregation of nuns to run the **Allamano Special school** boarding section. The **Government of the Republic of Kenya** ,through the Ministry of Education provides policy guidelines, Teachers specially trained in Special Education. The **Archdiocese of Nyeri** is the designated Manager and oversees the daily welfare of the mentally challenged children.

ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL: OVERCOMING THE ATTITUDES and SOCIAL CULTURAL BRIDGEWORKS



<http://my.opera.com/PainterWoman/blog/2009/08/16/faces?cid=17301561&startidx=50#comment17301561> Retrieved 1/21/2011 8:29 PM

The above photos posted on the internet by a volunteer are a clear indication that much more can be done for the Mentally and Physically challenged Children? They serve as a **“EYE”** opener.

Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think. MLK Jnr.

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LIVING BEYOND THE DREAM

“WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN WHEN I AM NO MORE” were Fr Gianelli’s words on August 10th 1996. After 10 years with Cancer [1988-1999], Fr Antonio Giannelli knew it was time to let go. He left Kenya in July 1999. Over 14 years have passed under the bridge, since that lunch time meeting on 10th August, When Fr Antonio Giannelli had talked of his impending death from Cancer, and 10 years have since screeched by. His Children are in good hands. [FATHER ANTONIO GIANNELLI 1923 – 2001 - The Consolata Missionaries ...](#) Feb 12, 2006 ... Father Antonio Giannelli has left us forever, he was a small man but great missionary. His big heart, unshakable faith, slightly rebellious ... en.ismico.org/content/view/332/3/ - CACHED

August 10th 1996 has come and gone many times over, and the TEARS that had eclipsed the Consolata Missionaries Fr Antonio Gianelli IMC and Fr Rossi Ricardo IMC have perhaps dried up. Theirs were “WORDS and ACTIONS” that reawakened the Spirit of service, in those that had the rare privilege of being around them .



Allamano Special school for Mentally handicapped children has become a centre for transformation of disabilities attitudes and cultural norms and taboos and attracted the attention of many individuals and institutions that continue to champion the future of persons with mental disabilities. We thank you all for having contributed in letting the world know of the plight of children and families who daily have to contend with the excesses of Disabilities, at **Allamano Special School** and elsewhere in the world. **It's time to say GOODBYE to GENREs gone by and pass over to the Next generation.**

We need to seek ways of demythologizing disability all the time knowing that-“A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on”- Mark Twain

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action. Mother Teresa



WWW.Allamanospecialschool.Org WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org and WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Com

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF ALLAMANO SPECIAL SCHOOL

WWW.FriendsOfAllamano.Org



Photo: Earlier days Fr Antonio Gianelli IMC founder of the school with staff and children of Allamano special school holding medals won in a local special Olympics sports event.

WWW.AllamanoSpecialschool.Org