Dear Fr. Philbert, Dear Sr. Digna!

heartfelt greetings to you from the „Close Friends“, the small group that coordinates the activities of the „Friends of Sanya Juu“. We hope that you are well!

We send you this special and longer letter before Passian Maningi will visit you in few weeks – he told us it should be the Saturday, 18th of September. Because now is busy in university and school with exams and other big works, **please** take all those questions (to get an overview, the ten questions are underlined and connected with a number), to **answer** from time to time, to be ready please, when Passian will be there – to make some pictures too. Maybe you Fr. Philbert will also have time for a short stay in “your” school? It would be wonderful to have both partners Sr. Digna and Fr. Philbert on one table. Thanks in advance!!!

It has been quite a long time since we met personally, celebrating the 25th jubilee of our partnership in Wernberg (July 2016). That unforgettable encounter was an occasion to recall what had been achieved by our longstanding partnership. You concluded your speech with the words: „Our world can be a more peaceful, joyful and satisfying place to live in through collaborations. The example of Friends of Sanya and the Catholic Diocese of Moshi stands as an example of this.“ We also considered ideas for the future, keeping in mind the limitations, i.e. the personal and financial resources, of the „Friends of Sanya Juu“.

During the last one and a half year the activities of the „Friends“ were constrained by the Corona-Pandemic. We had to cancel two meetings ((April 2020, April 2021), but we could get together to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Sr. Josefi´s death and we were grateful to know that you, Sr. Digna and all our partners joined us in remembering Sr. Josefi and her commitment. Our next meeting is scheduled for Oct 16th. We know that you are in a demanding position and very busy, but we would be very grateful to get the answers from you that we could present at the meeting.

How does the educational system in general and Visitation in particular cope with the pandemic? **\*1\*** In Austria there were several lockdowns, students had to stay at home and teachers had to switch to online-teaching. All that caused serious difficulties, some even speak of „a lost year“, particularly for children that couldn´t get support of their parents. But there were also some positive (side-)effects, especially concerning computer literacy.

We remember the room with laptops or computers in Visitation: how about getting a teacher **\*2\*** with knowledge, to support or teach the students in School – the way we thought to use it in former times with subject in the curriculum? Is it possible to discuss in School committee to get for example one lesson a week for the Highschool-students? Not only to make research in internet, but to study programs like Word or Excel, what the students will need on university or in their future jobs? How is the possibility for internet connection **\*3\*** – I remember the Italian server was not good – have you found another one?

Maybe there are some lessons to be drawn from this crisis: Computer literacy is very important. Personal interaction is indispensable. No one should be left behind. In Austria we must combine the technology with the coaching direct support from teacher in all subjects now. Like you are practising for years, that students are allowed to come for any questions to teachers – this is an important part in education.

Hopefully the big new building **\*4\*** is now finished. Have you found a good office Sr. Digna? Do you feel well and the other secretary-ladies? And the library is gone into bigger rooms? How was the change? Have you made it with some students – I remember the picture from year 2000 where the first students carried the first books into the room?

We, the „Friends“, want to continue with our contributions for girls from marginalized families. This is getting more and more difficult, because the number of members is shrinking (we are not getting younger anymore) and therefore the donations too looks smaller. Last semester we could only pay € 7000, - (not € 9000). But we sincerely hope, as did Sr. Josefi and you, dear Fr. Philbert, when you initiated the project, that „Visitation“ will always keep open its doors for girls from economically deprived families. How can you manage the smaller financial support **\*5\*** for the students? Following those statements that we are getting older and the donations are decreasing, I would like to ask you how Visitation would go on if the Friends of Sanya Juu no longer exist. Is it guaranteed that girls from socially disadvantaged backgrounds will continue to be supported? Where would the money come from **\*6\*** to support these girls? Are there similar institutions in Tanzania?

Let me ask you how is the connection with the former students **\*7\*** from Visitation? Can and do they help other children? How is the communication with them? Do you think on a big celebration in the year 2024 or 2025 for silver-jubilees? **\*8\*** Maybe to use this for Harambe especially for students in need?

Another question we would be interested in is whether our suggestions regarding **\*9\*** corporal punishment (shamba gras, dung carrying, slashes on hands …) made any difference? We heard of the discussions of students together with Sister connected close to students – a wonderful idea! Especially now in time when students not studying so hard like the first ones, it will really not be easy to find good methods or to motivate the students.

We fear that Christian charity is not always lived in us as humans or the Catholic Church. It also fits that, as far as we know, a student who became pregnant **\*10\*** had to leave school. I have heard it is not made now, but if so, how is/was this step justified? Was there any other companion for this student?

Dear Sr. Digna, dear Fr. Philbert, please forgive us for the tough questions. We are deeply convinced that you are doing extremely valuable work in Visitation and that you contribute a lot to the further development of women in Tanzania. It is also clear to us that the conditions in Europe cannot be transferred 1:1 to Tanzania. Nevertheless, we would be interested in the answers to the above questions.

We want to thank you again for the longstanding partnership and for your friendship!

Special greetings to you from

This letter is written from all close friends:

Franz, Gudrun, Christl, Harald, Karl, Helga,

Christoph, Sr. Andreas, Passian und Renate