

A photograph showing the silhouettes of several churches with conical roofs against a bright, hazy sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow. The churches are arranged in a row, with some in the foreground and others further back. The overall mood is serene and historical.

**A short history of the
Catholic Eparchy (Diocese) of Keren**

The historical factors that lead to the establishment of the Eparchy of Keren

1. THE VINCENTIAN - LAZARIST MISSIONARIES (1851-1894)

It was in the second half of last century (1851) that present Catholic church in these area was established again. When the first missionaries arrived, they found small communities of Christians without pastors to look after their spiritual needs, but still firm in their faith and Christian traditions.

St. Justin de Jacobis, the first Apostolic Vicar of Abyssinia, had appointed Mons. Bianchieri (1860-1864) his coadjutor and Apostolic Vicar to Keren area. Within relatively a short but successful period of missionary activities, having encountered favorable conditions, Mons. Bianchieri proposed to St. Justin de Jacobis that Keren should be the center to a new ecclesiastical circumscription. St. de Jacobis without hesitation accepted and approved of the idea as "God inspired".

2. THE CAPUCHIN MISSIONARY PERIOD (1894-1930)

By now a new political situation was created which forced the praise worthy Vincentian Missionaries to leave for good. Their legacy passed to the sons of St. Francis, the Capuchins, who readily took over the promising mission and embarked on their fresh assignment with enthusiasm and earnestness. Instead of the former Prefecture Apostolic of Abyssinia, a new Apostolic Prefecture of Eritrea, with Fr. Michele da Carbonara its spiritual leader, was officially set up. In the course of a short time, he prepared the necessary ground work for the prefecture to be raised to the rank of Vicariate.

Mons. C. Carrara (1911-1925) became the first Apostolic Vicar of Eritrea. Despite the lack of sufficient means and qualified personnel, he embarked on the strenuous task of evangelization of the Bogos, Mensa and the Cunama, and combatting ignorance and disease. He also paid great attention to raise the standard of education in the seminary, and determined to send the first seminarists to the "Ethiopian College in the Vatican city, Rome, for further higher studies.

Among the Capuchin missionaries pioneers, Fr. Angelic da Nono, as rector of seminary and superior of the flourishing mission proved to be an outstanding figure to earn the title, "the Apostle of the Bogos". Thus, Catholic church was firmly and fairly established again.

THE CREATION OF LOCAL HIERARCHY OF GEEZ RITE (1930)

- Thus, in 1930 Abune Kidanemariam Kasa was elected and appointed first Pro-Vicar and later Ordinary for the Catholics of Geez rite.
- In accordance with this trend of self-rule, already in 1928, Mons. Celestinio Cattaneo had assigned Abba Zereghaber, parish priest of Keren, as Protopresbyter for the district of Bogos to act under the leadership of Abune Kidanemariam.

The establishment of the catholic Eparchy of Keren

- Pope John Paul the II, by the Apostolic Constitution "***Communitates in Orbe***" of December 21st, 1995, with its first Eparch H.B. Abune Tesfamairam Bedho, erected the Catholic Eparchy of Keren.

Statistical information

- **ETHNIC GROUPS:** The Blin, the Tigre, the Tigrigna and Rashaida.
- **LANGUAGES** : Blin, Tigre, Tigrigna, Arabic.
- **PARISHES** : 38
CHAPELS : 39
Priests : 43
CATECHISTS : 110



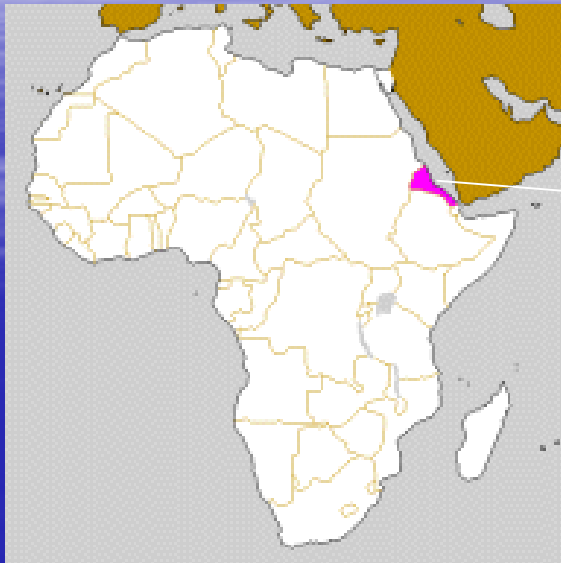
- ◆ **EDUCATION:- i) Elementary 18**
- ◆ **ii) Junior & Senior 2**

- ◆ **SOCIAL SERVICES**

- ◆ **i) Orphanages 1**
- ◆ **i) Women's Promotion 7**
- ◆ **ii) Health: a) Health centers 3**
- ◆ **b) Health station 5**

Introduction

Eritrea is a small country in Northern Africa.



• It is a country in the Horn of Africa on the western shore of the Red Sea. Its latitudinal position is between 12o 42'N (Ras Dumeira) 18o 02' E and 43o10'E. It is bounded by the Red Sea on the east, the Republic of Djibouti on the south-east, Ethiopia on the south, and the Sudan on the west and north.

• **Eritrea has 4 Million people. It is a 55% Christian 45% Moslem Country**



- It is a beautiful place, with mountainous highlands, semi-desert lowlands and a big Red Sea coastline.



Eritrea is a tropical country with significant physical diversity. It is characterized by highlands and lowlands. Thus, its climate is influenced by its tropical location and physical diversity.

Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 after 30 years of fighting.



After just Seven years of independence, in 1998 war broke out again with Ethiopia. The war started as a border conflict but it developed in a nation wide war which threatened the newly gained independence.



The Catholic Eparchy of Keren



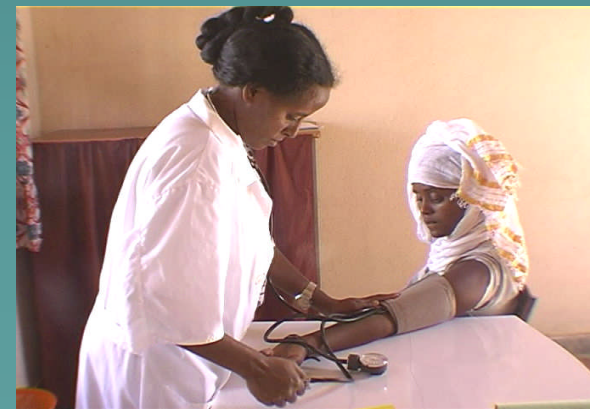
Every Year

Treats around

40,000 Patients

In it's **8** clinics

Clinics and Health centers



Reaching

The

Unreachable





Halhal the Vedruna Sisters Serving



**SERVING
A SUFFERING
HUMANITY**

**DISCRIMINATING
NO ONE ...
ON ACCOUNT OF FAITH
OR GENDER...**



Halhal health center



**AT THE DAWN
OF
A NEW LIFE**





AT THE SUNSET
OF A LIFE
THAT
DEPARTS ...



The Orsoline sisters in Ashera clinic





THE Eparchy
HAS

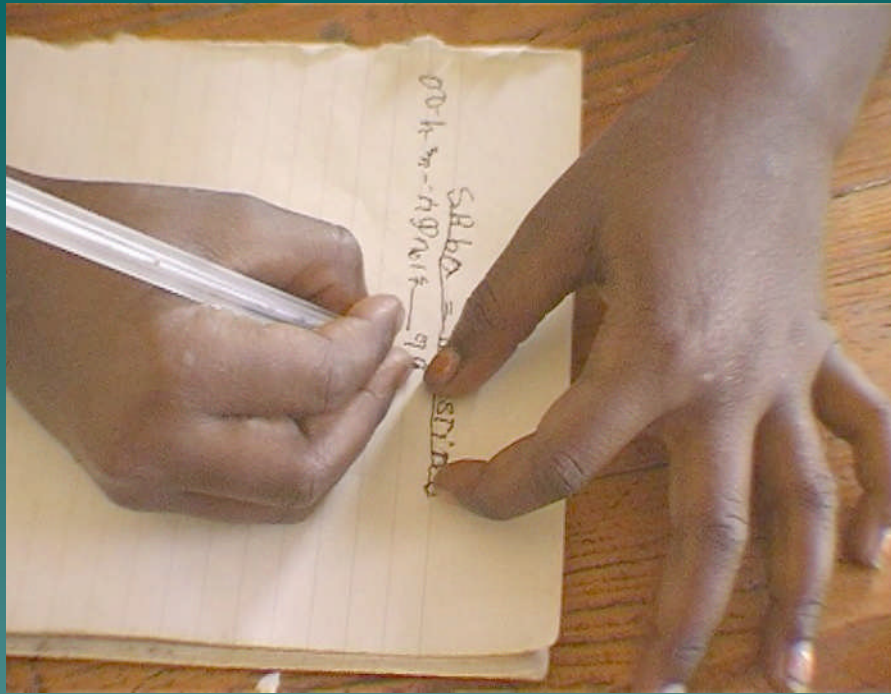
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Rural SCHOOLS

SERVING

4,711
STUDENTS





THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY
IS BEING SHAPED
IN THE
CLASSROOMS



5

KINDERGARTENS

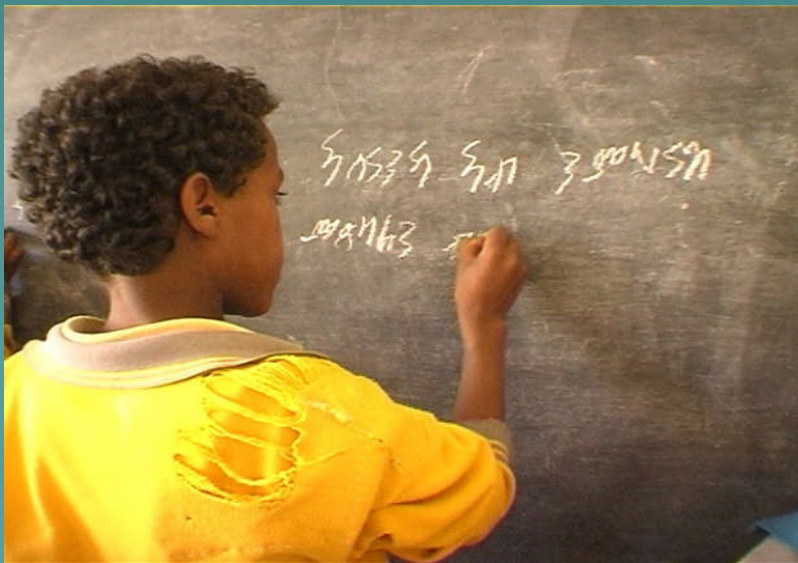




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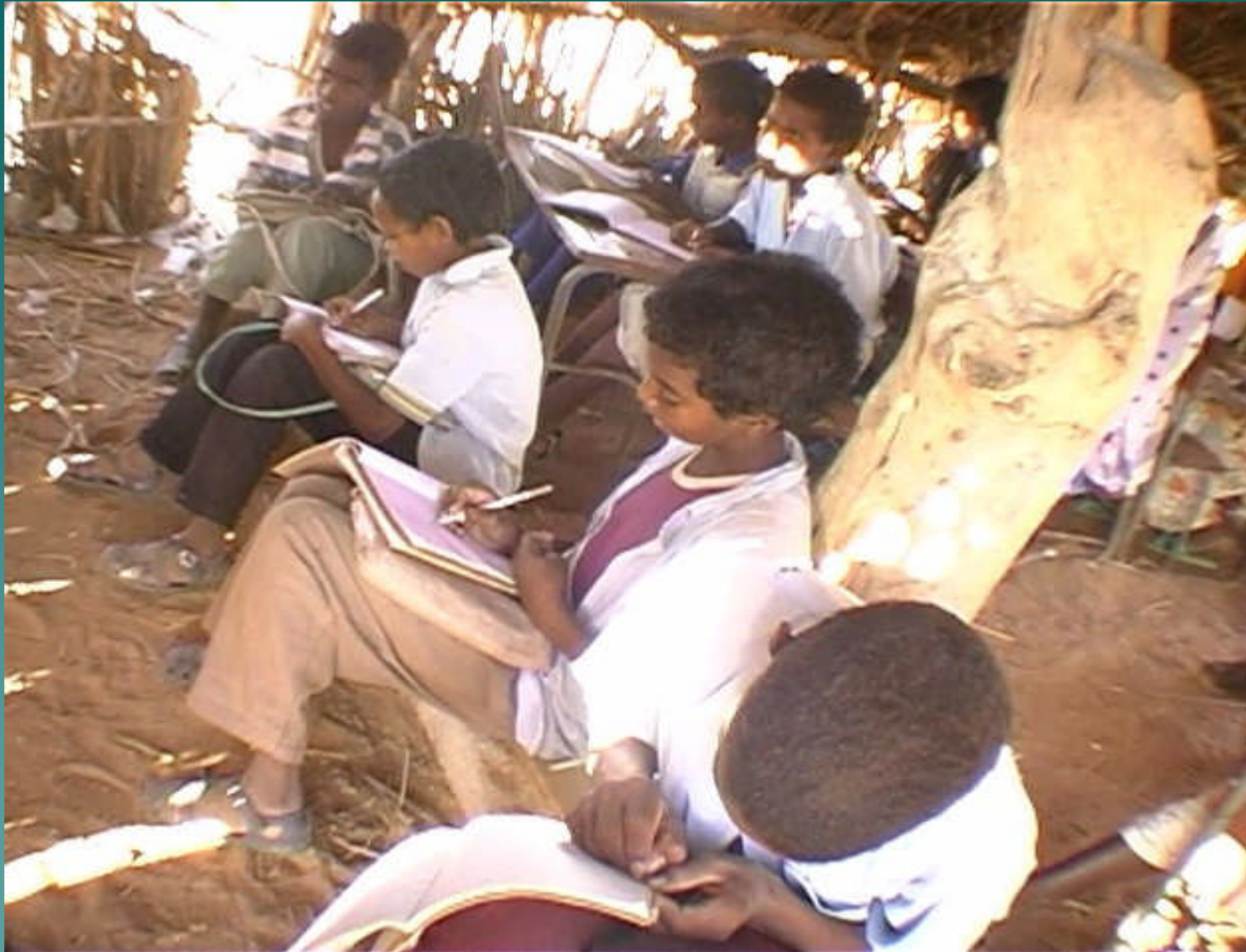
PRIMARY & JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS





IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES







Sheqloti school







Catholic schools everywhere

ONE HIGH SCHOOLS, THE LA SALLE BROTHERS KEREN



ONE INSTITUTES THE HAGZ-AGRO TECHINCAL



HAGAZ AGRO-TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

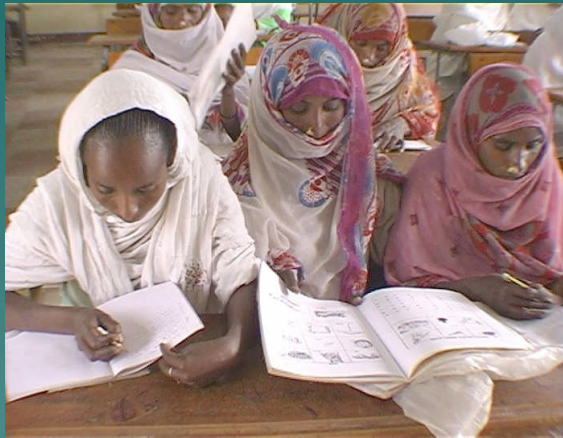




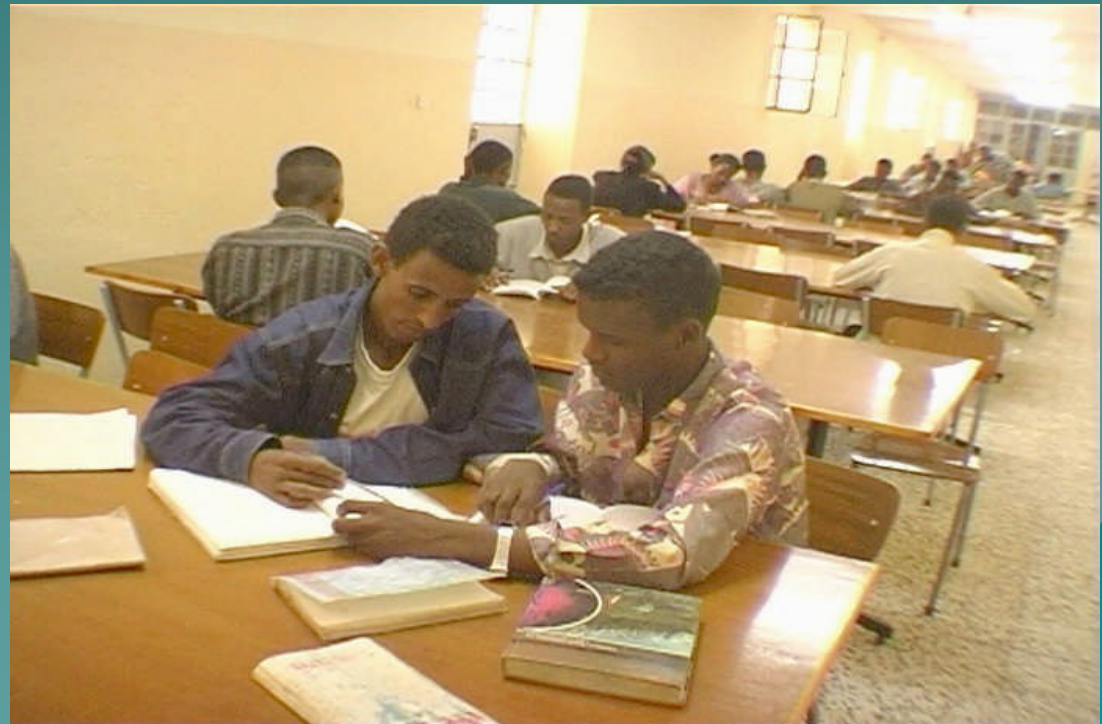
TRAINING & PRODUCTION in Hagaz Agro-technical school



ADULT EDUCATION



SOCIAL CENTERS



There is always

A wound
to cure and a child
to educate

