



Holy Angels School

(St. Patrick's school for the underprivileged)
by Bruce Murphy, Vice Chair

For two years, Holy Angels College was closed due to the pandemic. During this time, markets were shut down, Covid was still rampant, and a six-month drought had taken a toll on crops and families. Yet, parents wanted to see the school open again for their children to give them a future full of hope. Discussions had continued during this time with the Twinning Ministry with the hope to assist fifty students, considered the poorest to achieve a dream of returning to school. When the school decided to open in 2022, those talks led the Twinning Ministry to commit the monies to help them return to school. This also assisted with the increasing food cost at that time. During this term, the discussions continued as to how we could continue this effort for all of 2022. A small group of people donated enough monies for the second term and it was again decided to continue this effort. It was during this time that we also found out that teachers are only paid approximately \$12 a month. As we began to form a closer relationship, we asked Father Henri if we could start having weekly meetings with the head of school and himself to discuss more of the needs of Holy Angels College.



There are many challenges facing the school as they continue to try to get the school back to where it was prior to the pandemic.

1. Grow the student population from 230 to 320 students by the end of 2022.
2. Deal with the daily increase of gas prices that impacts the cost of food purchases.
3. Tuition payments from families struggling to grow crops and using the extra crops to sell at markets in order to make payments.
4. Secure the perimeter of the school to protect the students and the property. During the pandemic, it was a struggle to keep the school property safe since there is no wall around the perimeter.
5. Capacity issues to grow the student body, as the girls' dorm is maxed out at this point and government regulations do not allow for more girls unless a new dorm or space can be expanded.
6. Teachers trying to balance the need to teach students, care for their families, and be able to spend time tending their crops. Two of the teachers are also catechists.

While it is always difficult to hear our brothers' and sisters' struggles, there is hope that we can continue in some way to assist them. Some ideas we have discussed include the following:

1. Continue to support the poorest fifty students by providing a tuition assistance program. It costs \$300 annually to send a child to school. This equates to a \$15,000 commitment annually. If St. Max families would be willing to adopt a child, they would pay \$300 a year for four years or \$1200 over that time.
2. Support teachers by providing a stipend to help them. For years many teachers continued to teach and were not paid. As most of us know, one cannot do this for long and continue to faithfully support their own family. If St. Max families supported a teacher, that would be \$144 annually, doubling what they receive today. There are fifteen teachers in the school.
3. Continue to look for small ways to support the efforts of the school to grow.
4. Write articles about both teachers and students each term and what the impact has meant to them and their families.

St. Max has been very generous to our brothers and sisters in Soroti, especially with the most recent water wells project. We have been told over and over how appreciative the people are, especially the families of those students supported to date. Our hope is to continue to support the school and bring a brighter future to the poorest of those families.

Successful Lenten Project - Water Wells

The twinning ministry goal of funding 34 deep water wells for safe, clean water was achieved prior to Easter. It was amazing to watch the donations flow in for this life-saving project, eventually reaching 49 wells or nearly \$264,000. The 34 wells were completed in mid-August and the remaining 15 wells are expected to be completed by the end of September. Thank you again for your kind and generous donations. Thank yous are coming soon...



Father Simon Peter "Thank You" Farewell

We received many positive comments on our efforts to honor Father appropriately and he was overwhelmed with our parish's generosity.

Mission Trip Spring 2023

Connie Spotts and Kyle Schafer are beginning plans for a parish immersion trip. If you are interested, contact Connie at connie.spotts@fuse.net

Pen Pals

The next letters will not be due one month after we receive pen pal letters from St. Patrick's. We are forming a parish-wide subgroup for overseeing and managing the pen pal program. If you are interested in joining the subgroup of the Twinning Ministry or want to become a pen pal, contact Twinning@saint-max.org or call Dan Suer at 513-652-9787.

Archdiocese Mission Office Dinners

St. Max Twinning Ministry is hosting this annual event to support the activities of our archdiocesan mission office. Wednesday, September 28, 5:30 PM in the St. Patrick Conference Room. Contact Lakmé to RSVP lkodros@saint-max.org

Twinning Ministry Leadership (including representatives from Finance Council, Staff & Parochial Vicar)

Mission Ministry – Fr. Simon Peter, Fr. Henry Agit & Deacon John Back
Mission Trip Ministry – Kyle Schafer, Deacon John Back & Lakmé Kodros
Family Connections/Pen Pal Ministry – Connie Spotts, Carol Klinker & Maureen Normoyle
Prayer Ministry – Deacon John Back
Events Planning Ministry Paul Groh & Mike Gardner
Communication Ministry – Dan & Mary Jo Suer
Appreciation Ministry – Lana Elliott
Education Ministry – Bruce Murphy, Jen Klenke & Nancy Prince
Connecting Catechist Families – All
Charity/Resources Ministry – Kyle Schafer
Physical Needs Ministry – Mike Gardner

Thank You!

We close this month with a huge Thank You for being partners in our ministry! We thank God for moving this ministry to support the physically and financially poor, yet joyfully spiritual people, on the other side of the world in Soroti, Uganda, specifically in the remote area of St. Patrick's Church, Madera. May God continue to bless each of you abundantly!

Warm Regards,
Dan Suer
Twinning Ministry Chair
Twinning@saint-max.org