



### An Update from Catechist David Okwii

Uganda is sunny most of the year with temperatures rising between 26 to 29 degrees celsius. The rainy season is from March till May, October till November. Light rains are experienced in November till the first weeks of December. Dry seasons are from December to February and slightly June to August. The best time for planting would be March to early April but this time around the weather pattern has drastically changed. The dry season stretched up to 3rd April is when the first rains started falling till the first week of May. From May update we started experiencing a serious dry spell.

The crops people had cultivated during the first rains have all dried up and people in some families have been starved due to the lack of food. Some could only afford one meal a day and those who are vulnerable, especially the aged/elderly, the sick and the little children, the condition at hand has forced them to starve. Sometimes their livelihood depends on the charity and generosity of sympathizers and wellwishers. From our visit to different families, I and David saw vividly how much pain, struggle and suffering families are going through due to the situation at hand. I must say a double tragedy has befallen us!! Families entirely depend on hand to mouth and they are really in dire need of food for survival. Some have even lost hope as to whether they can make it to the next day. In fact we have been oppressed on both sides by these tragedies; the Corona Virus on one side and starvation on the other side, yet the number of CoronaVirus infections are surging up every day and the Health facilities in the country are filled up with no oxygen supply hence a high mortality rate in Uganda has been registered due to Covid 19 Virus.



Your prayers to our brothers and sisters at St. Patrick's Parish Madera are highly needed. God Bless you as we journey together as one family and children of God. Thanks all from Father Henry.

### Drought

I must say God is good all the time...we should extol his mighty name even when the situation seems not appealing. It is double blow for Uganda and especially Teso when both Covid and drought hit at the same time. Before the country got its second face of lockdown, people had tried to return back to the normal days after the first lengthy lockdown of 2020.

All institutions namely; churches, businesses, education among others were getting revamped though on a low pace. As we all know that most of our people (St. Patrick's) community entirely depend on agriculture and so as the year 2021 was opening, their apex target was to utilize the rains which could help them in crop production to better their survival and also earn them some money to pay children's fees since schools had also reopened.

To a great disappointment, rains which started at the beginning of the year were consistent up to around April when they suddenly stopped. Many people lost their seeds in the ground and as of now, there are traces of clouds which keep forming and disappearing.

### Now Starvation and Covid

As I said from the beginning, the communities are now experiencing the wave of Covid and famine consecutively. From the few visits made to the vulnerable category:

- Family members who would try to give the old palliative care have nearly nothing to offer. The frail equally starves until something to eat comes by.
- Besides, some of the energetic family members taking care of the old are barred from movements and so they can't engage in any income generating activity.
- What we offered was taken as a great surprise since they least expect anyone to share material gifts. All they know is that each family is apparently stuck to the ideology of a widow who had an encounter with the prophet Elijah (1 kings 17:12)

### Lessons learnt

- In this famine era, another affected category in families are children who are being compelled to a situation of either a light or one meal a day. This could have been the season of maize which could have been the most available food for children after the season. Of mangoes.
- The old are also under a similar coercion of starving and this has made some illness to prevail as a result of hunger.

**Thank you so much for your continued love, prayers and support. May we keep one another in prayers, heart and mind. From David Okwii Twinning at St. Patrick.**

### Thank you from Father Henry Agit, Pastor, St. Patrick Church Madera Soroti, Uganda

Dear Fr. Jim, Fr. Simon Peter and the entire Christian community of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish-Ohio, I am thanking you for all you are doing in evangelization of the Christian people, and in the noble task of making Christ visible in our communities.

On behalf of the local Church of Soroti Catholic Diocese and St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, in particular, allow me to express special sentiments for the financial support worth US \$ 22,652.00 which was collected as a donation for food relief for the people who are in dire need at St. Patrick's Parish Madera in Soroti Catholic Diocese. Thanks to you all the Christian community of St. Maximilian Kolbe for such contributions which have touched the hearts of so many and this time especially the sick, elderly/ aged, children and the less fortunate in our community.

Kindly keep us in your emailing list and I wish all of you God's choicest blessings in all your endeavors.

I remain yours faithfully,

Fr. Henry Agit

The pastor St. Patrick's Parish Madera



### St. Patrick's Holy Angels School Science Lab is Complete!

This private Catholic school developed by Father Simon Peter has more affordable tuition and has flourished! Holy Angels College has closed again due to the Coronavirus lockdown. Our support of this school has helped to make it a "model school" for the Soroti Diocese. Boys' and girls' dorms have created a safe, secure environment for the children to focus on education and avoid walking miles daily.

Our priority to build the science lab occurred because of the potential closing of the school by the Ugandan government due to inadequate science space. We have been able to complete the large science lab that includes rooms for Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and a Library.

### Condolence Letters on the Passing of Fr. Ron

#### From Father Henry:

On the behalf of the Christian community of St. Patrick's Parish Madera let me convey our heartfelt and deepest condolences to you Rev. Fr. Jim and Rev. Fr. Simon on the recent passing on of Rev. Ron Piepmeyer. Our sincere condolences to you our brothers and sisters and the Christian community of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Ohio. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Father Ron Piepmeyer will always be remembered for his missionary zeal and apostolic spirit he exercised during his ministry while he lived. Father Ron Piepmeyer leaves behind him a wonderful family and community of believers and I know he will be greatly remembered and missed by many.

God gave us Fr. Ron and He has taken him back to Himself.

May father's soul rest in eternal peace.

#### From David Okwii:

We parishioners of St. Patrick's have learnt with great shock the demise of one of the senior priests at St. Maximilian (Fr. Ron).

It's unfortunate that distance makes certain things impossible though it would have been much better for us to lively commiserate with you.

We pray for comfort of our entire brothers and sisters and especially you Fr Riehle and Fr. Simon (brother priests) as you pass through this unbearable situation.

We praise the Lord though for the gift of his life and long service to the Church. May he be rewarded in heaven with a prize he long labored for!

Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him...

May he rest in peace....Amen

Join us August 26 at 6:00 PM in church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 7 PM. We will pray for the needs of our sister parish with a rosary, private prayer, vespers, and benediction. Please come and join us. There is nothing greater that you can give our brothers and sisters at St. Patrick's than your prayers!



## Sustaining and Adding St. Max Families as Pen Pals for New Catechists

Thank you to the St. Max parishioners that recently joined Family Connections as a pen pal. We are still in need of a few more pen pals. Encourage a fellow member to join in. Encourage a fellow member to join in.

When Father Jim suggested the Family Connections pen pal program, it swiftly became a reality beginning in Advent, 2019. Our ministry accepted the challenge to invite 161 St. Max families to become pen pals with a catechist's family by providing their photos on display boards and online. With the addition of 25 more catechists, we increased the number of pen pal families to 186. Three letters have since been shared between catechists at St. Patrick's and St. Max families. This is vital to our mission and sustaining and strengthening our relationship with St. Patrick's. Contact Connie Spotts at [connie.spotts@fuse.net](mailto:connie.spotts@fuse.net) to sign up!

## Welcome

New members Jen Klenke and Nancy Prince

## St. Max Immersion Trip

We are considering another trip in June of 2022. Stay tuned for more details!

## Golf Outing

Friday, September 10th, 1:00 PM

Walden Ponds

All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Church Madera Soroti, Uganda

[Sign Up Here](#)

## Donate

Our ministry operates without any funding from the St. Max budget and solely relies on donations. Several parishioners have committed to a reoccurring weekly or monthly donation to Twinning Ministry via Faith Direct. Just visit [www.saint-max.org/Twinning](http://www.saint-max.org/Twinning) and click the red donate now button to get started. It's simple and only takes minutes. You can also make a one-time donation there! All donations and checks made to St. Max Twinning Ministry are 100% for St. Patrick's Church Madera Soroti, Uganda.

## Twinning Ministry Leadership

Dan Suer, Chair

Bruce Murphy, Vice Chair

Kyle Schafer, Financial Secretary

Mary Jo Suer, Secretary.

## Thank You!

We would like to thank all of you who are reaching out and trying to find ways to support our Twinning Ministry. Your extreme generosity and support have blessed the lives of the people of St. Patrick's in more ways than can be expressed in words. We look forward to more opportunities to grow in love and charity and follow the path God is leading us to help and unite with the people of St. Patrick's. Please pray that our relationship continues to grow with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

May God bless each of you mightily,

Dan Suer

Ministry Contact

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