



Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church



The Story of Gabriel

Children should be able to enjoy every aspect of their lives with joy and gladness. Our Lord Jesus welcomed children to His fold because they were innocent. In Africa, thousands of young children are forced to endure a stressful childhood, experiencing the challenges many of their parents go through. This trauma usually results negatively in their lives. Land being one of the resources and sources of revenue in Uganda has been marred with many conflicts which usually cause stress and trauma to innocent children.

One such child whose life was condemned to suffering is Gabriel Emesu. He is a young, energetic 16 year old boy hailing from Aloet-Akum and born to Ariokot Salume and Ediangu Joel (deceased). Gabriel's dreams were shattered when his father passed in 2019 due to witchcraft. He went through a stressful childhood caused by the death of his benefactor creating uncertainty and stress on the young boy at the age of 12 years old. He had to stop school to help his mother secure food for the family by selling "silver fish" which generated little income for the family. Adding to this, being the last born in a family of five, Gabriel was a last priority to be educated due to the order of his birth.



Gabriel's education almost came to a halt, having little hope of continuing his education. The pain he went through was overwhelming for a child of his age. The worst part was that he was in his final year of primary school. Luck fell on Gabriel due to his academic performance prompting the director of the school, Dokolo Township Primary School, to search for him. He was offered a scholarship to finish his primary school where he excelled with distinction One 12 aggregates. This brought a lot of joy to the young boy who was overjoyed with this performance.

When time to join secondary came, the smile on his face faded due to lack of tuition. With faith in his heart, he walked to St. Patrick's Parish with his results in hand to pray to God for a supernatural blessing. He believes God answered his prayers after arriving at the parish and meeting the Fr. Henry Agit. Fr. Agit listened to his story and reviewed his performance. Fr. Agit was then compelled to request the school board to grant him an opportunity to study at Holy Angels College.

Gabriel is one of the grateful beneficiaries of the sponsorship program initiated by the St. Max Twinning Ministry. He is now a Senior three, working hard with a dream to become a priest, like his role model, Fr. Simon Peter Wankya, whom he believes strengthened his faith by the teachings he received.

Gabriel says, "I am very grateful to St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish and all Christians there for the support I have received. The only promise I can make is that I will work hard and excel, so that I can help somebody in future to get out of the situation I went through. God bless you all."

Gabriel supplies tomatoes to the school and helps teach other students how to prepare gardens of tomatoes, a skill he learned at home. This is his attempt to reduce school expenses by buying tomatoes used in students' food.

What is Twinning?

It's building a mutual relationship, sharing faith journeys with Our Lord, learning worship styles and developing joyful friendships in another culture. Twinning is not changing others, imposing our way of life, and only building infrastructure and only fundraising. Through the process of parish twinning, a parish seeks to integrate global concerns into their parish life by developing a faith-filled relationship with

another parish within or outside of the U.S. The form that a relationship takes depends entirely on the two parishes involved and in the creativity and gifts of its members. Establishing a twinning relationship is an evolutionary process involving the pastor and parishioners of both parishes. It requires work, dedication and understanding from both parishes, the reward of these efforts is great. The desired twinning relationship is one where, like the Christian community described by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 12, there is a mutual sharing of gifts within the Body of Christ. We continually seek to recognize, embrace and nurture a relationship with our twinning partner St. Patrick's, Madera as a relationship between equals. The relationship requires humbleness. It requires an openness to recognize and accept the gifts that our twinning community has to give our parish. Thank you, St. Max, for helping our relationship evolve the past four years. We look to the future thanking God for His hand in what has become a beautiful, loving relationship.

UPDATES



Fr. Simon Peter, former Parochial Vicar of St. Max, returned home to Soroti, Uganda in June 2022 after serving us for 5 years. He is currently Parochial Vicar of St. Benedict Parish in Amuria, Uganda in the Soroti Diocese. Bishop Joseph Eciru approved Fr. Simon Peter's request to return to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Archbishop Schnurr welcomed his return. Fr. Simon Peter received his new passport, government approved R-1 designation (religious visa) and approval to return to America, in which denials are normal. He now waits for a letter which will let him know when he can leave. He is not returning to St. Max.

50th Well Becomes a Reality!!

Few of us think much about water. When we are thirsty we turn on the tap, drink it and expect to feel refreshed. Water isn't something we worry about, and with good reason. We are blessed to have safe, clean water at our fingertips.

Unfortunately, millions of families in the developing countries of the world, Soroti, Uganda among them, are far less fortunate. Water must first be found. It is rarely clean, and it can pose dangerous illnesses if precautions are not taken before drinking it. Contamination and sickness are regular occurrences.



St. Max received another generous donation to bore a well recently and Father Henry Agit of St. Patrick's Church, Madera determined the St. Theresa outstation was the next most needed area. While completing 49 wells as part of the 2022 parish wide Lenten project, all parishioners were quite joyous of this unbelievable feat. Another parishioner learned of this success and asked if they could still dig another well, referenced in Uganda as a "borehole". Without hesitation the Twinning Ministry unanimously approved this request to dig the 50th well. Thank you all for bringing LIFE to so many brothers and sisters in the St. Patrick and Holy Family Parishes!!!



St. Max's second immersion trip to Soroti, Uganda was introduced to the parish, and we are quite thrilled that 10 parishioners have answered God's call to visit our brothers and sisters. Please pray for Tangie and Jessie Roper, Maria Servizi, Grace Lutz, Nancy Prince, Stacie Rusk, Connie Spotts, Maureen Normoyle, Rita Jones and Kyle Schafer. They left for Uganda on September 21.

Harvest Brings Food

Food is LIFE. We continue to learn that our brothers and sisters have a very hard life, even though they tackle each day most often with JOY. We know the past three years' harvest has been very poor, and so they have struggled. The 2023 harvest has been better but very

spotty, leaving the situation the same as the past three years. Please pray for very good harvests. This can be life changing and so many years have left them poor and hungry. In conjunction with our witness, the Twinning ministry voted unanimously at their August meeting to add another subgroup: Agriculture and Harvest, sharing and learning current methods and results as well as curriculum at Holy Angels. Watch for more to come. More importantly, please make this a daily prayer.



Currently Active Subgroups

- Continue to oversee the function of all 50 water wells dug this past year. Water is Life!
- Pen pal letters - exchanged three times annually between parishioners' families and all the catechists and their families at St. Patrick and Holy Family Parishes. The core of our relationship.
- Education - Holy Angels College School, 7th to 11th grade, supporting current scholarship/tuition program for 34 students.
- Prayer - praying for parishioners of both parishes and adopting a Seminarian to pray for.
- Immersion trips - coordinating visits to one another's parishes.



Our 5th annual St. Max golf outing benefitting St. Patrick's was held at Walden Ponds Golf Club Friday, September 8. Golf was sold out in advance! The Italian meal was delicious. Thanks to Heather LaMarca, Paul Groh and Ron Strube, as well as all the golfers and volunteers. Donations will benefit needed pews at St. Patrick's.

Motorcycle maintenance and necessary repairs were made on the vehicle we purchased in 2019 to make it easier for catechist David Okwii to get around.



Jacob Schmiesing, seminarian at St. Max last summer, was approved by the seminary to visit Fr. Simon Peter, which we helped to fund. Jacob was with Father at St. Benedict Amuria, Uganda mid-May to mid-July and learned many life lessons.

Memorial well plates are being installed as of this writing and pictures will be taken for donors.



Thank You! We close this month with a huge THANK YOU for helping our ministry thrive from your caring love and support of



our brothers and sisters at St. Patrick's, Madera Soroti, Uganda and Holy Family, Soroti, Uganda. Please know you are answering God's call to serve others and to be a witness of God's love. Thank you.

Twinning Ministry Leadership update:

Mission – Fr. Simon Peter, Fr. Henry Agit & Deacon John Back

Pen Pals – Maureen Normoyle, Carol Klinker, Joy Hunter & Lana Elliott

Prayer – Deacon John Back

Event planning – Paul Groh & Mike Gardner

Communications – Dan & Mary Jo Suer

Appreciation – Lana Elliott

Education – Bruce Murphy, Nancy Tereba, Nancy Prince & Paul Groh

Charity/resources – Kyle Schafer

Physical needs – Mike Gardner

Agriculture/harvest – Leo Vanderburgh

Connecting catechist families - all

May God continue to bless you abundantly,
Dan Suer
Twinning Ministry Chair

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish | 5720 Hamilton Mason Road, Liberty Township, OH 45011

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