



Thoughts from Dan Suer, Twinning Ministry Chair

I want to share my heartfelt thoughts this month. In July, we were speaking about drought, starvation and surging Covid cases causing sickness and death at our sister parish, St. Patrick's. Our hearts ached for our brothers and sisters. We prayed more than ever before and wanted to help. We continued to pray and Fr. Jim included prayer intentions at every Mass for several weeks.

I became impatient and felt a burning need to do something immediately. I asked God to help me find peace and patience while asking our prayers to be answered. While doubting that our prayers may not be answered quickly enough, I still found myself struggling a bit, as I am a man of action. I am learning from the Twinning ministry that God's hand is in what we do and I must completely trust and just let it go. Thank you, Fr. Jim, for helping me with this. After several weeks we were given the approval for a collection for emergency disaster food relief. I was relieved, our prayers were answered, and we would soon be able to help those suffering from hunger, starvation, and sickness. I knew that our St. Max community would respond big! The cash collection was an unbelievable \$27,000 and the Faith Direct amount was nearly \$8000 making the total just over \$34,800. Oh my gosh, how beautiful!!! When I informed Fr. Henry, pastor of St. Patrick's, of the good news, he shared with me his heartfelt joy and happiness. He relayed that they would mobilize and prepare the distribution immediately. Two weeks ago, we shared Fr. Henry's thank you in the bulletin! God is good! All the time! And that is his nature Wow! Wow!



Father Simon Peter

Four years ago Father came to the states in search of a sabbatical to take a break from his many years serving St. Patrick's Madera Soroti, Uganda. He received help from someone who has since become his friend, Michael Vandenberg, a former employee of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, via the internet. Father then met Archbishop Schnurr while in Rome and the archbishop permitted Father to work in the archdiocese for two years. Following this, Fr. Simon Peter was allowed to stay another three years. His R-1 visa was good for five years and his time with us will end in June 2022. We pray a group from St. Max will be able to go back to Uganda with him. Pray for Fr. Simon Peter's safe return and that he will be blessed with much love on his return.

Getting to know Father has opened my eyes! Father is a man of the community, spending as much time as possible with the parishioners of St. Max. He has made his mission as our Lord requested of him and I believe he was sent by God to minister to us. We have learned so much from him, not only about the challenges of his people but the message of Jesus Christ for all of us. He has surrendered five years away from home and family living on the other side of the world. I am not sure that I could do that. Let us pray together for Fr. Simon Peter and thank him for who he is, a great man! Reach out to him if you have not invited him to your home. You will be so happy you did!

Golf Outing

Friday, September 10 was a huge success and sold out in advance! Thank you, sponsors, golfers, and those joining us for the excellent Italian dinner afterward. Thank you to the golf committee: Paul Groh, Heather LaMarca, and Ron Strube. Early reports indicate proceeds of \$3500. for the Twinning Ministry. Thank you!

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

Thank you for your generous donations for supplies in the science lab. It is now 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



Good News and Not So Good News from Uganda

Rains have returned and there is hope for a bountiful harvest in October/November. Our emergency food relief brought much joy, happiness, and hope to the vulnerable of the parish. We saw the pictures and videos of that joy. Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters.

Church and school are still not convening. Fr. Henry works hard to reach deep into his parish communities to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. Continue to pray the Covid surge diminishes and sickness declines. Early reports indicate school will be out until sometime next year as they hope to vaccinate as many as possible. Not long ago only 1 million of the 40 million were vaccinated. Many countries are helping to resolve this dilemma.



Twinning Holy Hour

Join us every fourth Thursday at 6 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 Saint Patrick's than your prayers!

Pen Pal Weekend

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 to sign up!



St. Max Immersion Trip

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

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 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 (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!

Words will not express how thankful we are for your kindness and generosity to the Twinning Ministry and, more importantly, to St. Patrick's Church Madera Soroti, Uganda. Our prayers are essential in the growing relationship with our brothers and sisters at St. Patrick's!

May God bless each of you mightily,

Dan Suer

Ministry Contact

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