

Uganda Girls Project



St. Mary by the Sea Parish, Rockaway Beach, Oregon

November 2019

A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . .

Uganda Team We hope you enjoy these pictures and Sister Immaculate's update of St Aloysius news. Dia and Catherine learned so much about how St Aloysius operates and how much pressure the girls feel to do well on the government required exams they take the end of their 10th grade year and then again 12th grade year.

The seniors begin their exams on November 11th. Sister Immaculate says she is hopeful that all 16 seniors will pass with *flying colors* as they have done very well in their classes. Some of these girls would not have been able to stay in school to finish without the tuition scholarship help from us. Sister says that scoring high on senior tests is so important for college scholarships. Perhaps it's like the importance of scoring well on SAT tests for our school students in this country.

All 10th grade girls, who score at certain level, get a Normal Diploma and can go on to nursing school, elementary school teaching or various technical schools, IF their parents will pay for those schools. If they wish to continue on to 11th and 12th grades, they must achieve a certain score on their government 10th grade exams. Sister said that about half of the 10th grade girls will continue their education. If they opt to return to their villages, it is usually a short time before they get married as they can't continue to just live with their parents and jobs are very hard to find in a village.

It is especially important for those girls who return to the village to have a skill that they can use to make money. This is one of the reasons that teacher Mr. Joseph and his exceptional arts and crafts curriculum, where students learn to make baskets, scarves, cards, and jewelry, is so important. *Sister tries to make sure that all students have an opportunity to develop their unique talents!*

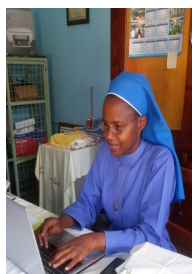
Thanks to all for your contributions, We just heard from Sr. Immaculate that she was able to work a deal, thanks to you, for hepatitis B shots for all the girls!

Please mark your calendars for our ALL PARISH THANK YOU PARTY to express our gratitude for your continued support. Saturday, December 7th following the 5:30 mass!!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. . .

Dear Friends of St Aloysius,

Our new hut has been such a big hit! It looks great when the visitors come in through our main gate and see it right away! The carpenter has begun delivering the new dining tables and benches, which makes our girls so excited. Renovation and roofing of the main hall will start late this month when the school year ends on 28th of November.



With the end of our school year girls get to go home for their 2 month vacation. The students who are orphans will stay here with the sisters and help in the fields. Fortunately the rain has been good

lately so our crops are doing well!

Three weeks ago we had parents' weekend. Some parents shed tears in my office while saying that they are failing to get even partial tuition for the daughters. One was a widow and she is not educated to have a job. Another parent was crying that the husband doesn't care for their daughter's education, so it is the mother earning all tuition funds. A different parent was saying she is supporting a step daughter and the father of the girl doesn't even care about her anymore. They were all requesting new help on their tuition bill!

I am so challenged by such tearful cases, but I can remain helpful to most because of the scholarship money you give us. Thanks a lot dear friends of ours at St Mary by the Sea, a church full of very generous and loving people!

Sister Immaculate, Principal





Mr. Joseph—long time art teacher.
Crafts are a life sustaining skill for some in Uganda



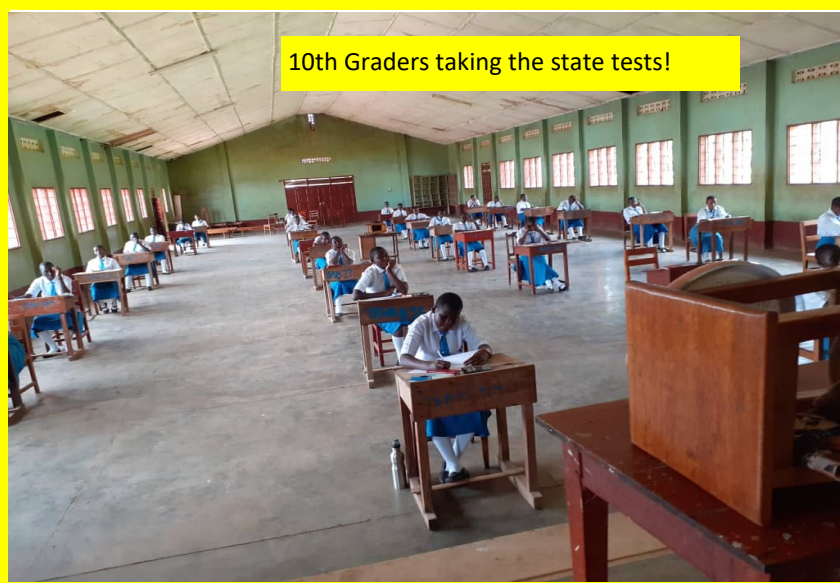
Our first table and benches! Thank you!



Parent weekend



Sr. Immaculate with some first year girls (7th grade). This is an especially large class of 96 girls.



10th Graders taking the state tests!

Thank you for your very generous donations! Sister appreciates all you have done for her girls. Future donation checks should be made out to St. Mary by the Sea Church and mailed to:

St. Mary by the Sea
ATTN: Catherine Imbrie
P.O Box 390
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

On the 15th of each month, checks will be deposited into the account for Sr Immaculate, then wired to Uganda. She will use the money to buy food for the girls, pay teachers and continue building projects. Forty dollars sent each month can keep a girl in school! It costs \$450 a year for tuition, room, board and uniform.