

Uganda Girls Project



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

A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . . . Uganda Team. . . July 14, 2022

Make no mistake. The Holy Spirit is at work here!
Many years ago when I was a teacher of French in a small Catholic high school we celebrated a Mass in French. The gospel for that day's Mass was the opening of the John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The French for "the Word" was "le Verbe." **What an incredible epiphany! Jesus isn't just the Word. He is the Verb. He is the Action! He puts things in motion and gets things done!** Talk about gaining insight in translation!

Now years later my wife, Judith, and I are here at St. Mary by the Sea. We see the Holy Spirit motivating us to support St. Aloysius, a small girls' school 9,000 miles away in Uganda. And, how simple and easy! It's almost like a magician's illusion: you write a check here, and before you know it, it pops up halfway around the world doing the most good. We have been blessed to see the success of our students.

We personally want to thank all the members of the St. Aloysius Steering Committee, all the faithful St. Mary by the Sea parishioners (summer and full time), everyone who facilitates the delivery of our donations to St. Aloysius, and Sr. Immaculate and now Sr. Maria Theresa who put our funds to proper use. Weebale!

Phillip and Judith Curtis

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. . . .

I hope you are all well. It has been busy here with lots of activities. On Sunday we had a visitation day for parents to see their daughters. I hope you will enjoy the pictures of field day and a fashion show to encourage recycling of goods. We then had a board meeting with the parents and it



was resolved that effective this month there will be an increase of about \$18/month on each staff salary. This was due to the challenge of the big increase of food and fuel. Many staff here were finding it hard to come to school. I have 36 teaching staff, 7 support staff, and 16 non-teaching support staff.

Let me tell you about our staff: We have 36 teachers on staff, some teach here part time and part time at other schools. There are 7 support staff that work with the girls, such as the nurse, librarian, laboratory attendant, bursar, secretary, driver, gatekeeper and a matron. The 16 non-teaching support staff are people like the piggery attendant, gardeners, cooks, and maintenance men. We have a good supportive staff as most have been here a long time and are doing a very good job for the girls. The non-teaching support staff are called Uncle by the girls and the females are called Auntie. This makes the school a comfortable place as it builds a sense of family belonging, respect, love, and care for one another. Thank you for your generosity in helping us support our school staff through your scholarship donations.

We too here in Uganda are struggling with higher prices. The staff need a raise and school operating prices are now higher on items we always need like, cooking oil, beans, rice, paper and other school supplies, wood fuel, gasoline, and school uniforms

We planted our maize crop which was looking so good but now the rains have stopped so sadly it will yield little this coming harvest. Tuition prices have been kept low to help parents but now we might need to raise future tuition fees starting in the next year. I do not want to do this but the school board parents are discussing it. I am worried how this will effect your scholarship donations.

Thank you, dear friends, for your care for us.

Sister Maria Theresa

The girls had so much fun at field day!! And we won our Hoop Ball game against neighboring school, St. Theresa!





Top left is a picture of the Environmental Fashion Show— All entries were from recycled materials!

Lower right—our beautiful visit with Sr. Immaculate in June! What a wonderful time we had!

Lower left—Field Day. We won the hoop ball game 12-10.

Top right — a craft made for the parents' visit.

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 (Please write UGANDA on the memo line) and mail 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 St. Aloysius Girls School, then wired to Uganda. The money is used 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.