

# Uganda Girls Project

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



July 2, 2023

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. . . .

My dear friends,

Please enjoy the pictures I took of our feast day celebration this past week. We celebrated our patron saint's feast day, St. Aloysius Gonzaga, on June 21st. St. Aloysius was known for his early interest in learning and for his high ideals. What a fitting patron for our students! Students and staff were very involved to make this feast day a big success with many alumnae also joining us for the day as you will see in the pictures.



During the celebration our new student prefects were initiated and received Bibles for taking on their new duties. As part of the mass, we also had traditional singing and dancing which you can see in the pictures. The sisters you see in the group photo

were also graduates and members of our alumnae.

The alumnae are continuing their efforts to raise money to buy more computers for our lab. They expressed that computer skills are important for successful careers, and students need lots of practice with them.

This coming week brings us to a new singing competition in our district. Some of the girls are also participating in an essay contest. I will send you the winning essay from our girls in the future.

May the Lord bless you for all the support you are giving us. . .

**Sister Maria Theresa and Staff**

## From the Team. . . . July 2, 2023

We hope you are all enjoying summer and have had time to relax and enjoy this beautiful sunshine. Catherine, Tony, Michelle and I had the chance to hear Fr. Greg Boyle speak and share the joy of true kinship, especially with those on the margins. It is that sense of kinship that I think we all feel with the amazing young women at St. Aloysius and their teachers, mentors, and beloved principal, Maria Theresa. Thanks to the wonders of technology, we were able to talk with Maria Theresa as we drove home. Her pride and commitment to bringing the best to her students and their families came through clearly, despite her exhaustion after a very long day. (She was just finishing up her on-line classes at 8:00 pm, her time, and had not yet had dinner.)

A lot is happening this week with the focus being an upcoming music/singing competition in nearby Masaka. The students from St. A's will be competing against other schools that serve women only and will be expected to sing, dance and present one song that every group will do to see who sings it the best. They will be able to transport the students, thanks to the collaboration with another school that will not be competing but has a bus.

St. Aloysius celebrated the school's feast day in grand style – again with presentations, music, dancing. Alumnae who were able to attend were welcomed and encouraged to pay it forward to support their school for those currently attending, particularly the purchase of more computers. One of the honored guests, a former St. A student, has been serving in parliament, and is another example of the way educated young women can go on to make a difference on the big stage as well as in their homes and communities. (continued on page 2)

Celebrating the feast of

St. Aloysius Gonzaga on June 21

with an outdoor mass and

traditional singing and dancing!





**Meet Maria G.**, a scholarship recipient whose favorite subject is math. She writes: *I thank you very much my dear sponsors for paying my school fees so that I can acquire a good education in order to become a better person in the future. My dream is that someday I will be able to become a pharmacist.*

*Both of my parents are farmers. Our family consists of seven people; a mother and a father with five children. I am the second born. My parents cannot manage paying secondary school fees for five children, as farmers struggle with money, so I would not be in St. Aloysius without your help. Maybe I would be helping on the family farm if I did not have your generous scholarship help.*

*May God bless you and multiply every note of money you have in your pocket a thousand times so you can continue to help me pay my school fees. May God bless you and keep you safe.....Maria*

(From the Team con't)

But the work goes on too. Students are taking practice exams to prepare for finals, and plans to welcome new students and their families to St. A are ongoing.

It is impossible not to show our concern for the safety of staff and students given reports of violence at other locations. Sr. Maria Theresa shared that there are students currently at St. A who are from the community recently in the news and of course are traumatized by reports from Lhubiraha Secondary School in Mpondwe. However, she assured us that St. Aloysius has security both day and night and security cameras that we helped finance after the mother house was broken into. They are taking every precaution to assure the school's safety. She is grateful for all the love, scholarship support and prayers for continued success and safety. Dia, writing for the committee.



**Feast Day Celebration**



**Alumnae**

**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**  
**Checks are deposited monthly into the account for St. Aloysius Girls School, then wired to Uganda. \$50 dollars sent each month can keep a girl in school and help with teachers' salary! It costs \$500 a year for tuition, room, board and uniform. The extra \$100 is to cover increased cost of teacher salaries.**