

Uganda Girls Project



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

A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . . . Uganda Team. . . August 7, 2023

Sr. Jane Frances, a former teacher at St. Aloysius and, once upon a time, a student there, visited us last month from Chicago. We were so pleased to hear her speak after each mass and hear her message to us of the importance of helping girls get a high school education. Please read her message to us below. Also Sr. Maria Theresa writes of how busy they are at school. The enrollment is now up to 414 students as more parents are enrolling their daughters as conditions for crops in the region improve. They all continue to be thankful for so many full and partial scholarships!

Sr. Jane Francis' message of appreciation given at St. Mary by the Sea . . .

This week-end's (July 15-16, 2023) experience took me back to the fond memories of 2005 when Sr. Immaculate Kyampeire and I were first invited to this parish by Fr. Jack Morris. We received such a warm welcome then as I did this visit. The major reason for my coming to you this summer was to say to you these only two words: "THANK YOU." The words "thank you" may look simple in one's comprehension but they elucidate a lot in terms of appreciation or gratitude especially for your sacrifice and oneness with us.

Particularly, I want to acknowledge the scholarships you offer to our needy students at St. Aloysius Secondary School in Uganda, one of our schools. While supporting the students, you lend a hand to us as the Daughters of Mary Sisters too. The name we bear as an institute of "the Daughters of Mary Sisters," is truly a call to be mothers like our Blessed Mother Mary; "like a mother, like a daughter." One biblical example of the motherhood of Mary was exemplified at the wedding of Cana where she told her Son Jesus,

"They have no wine," (Jn 2:3). As the Blessed Mother Mary cared for the people at the wedding of Cana, so are we called to look for the wine for the people we serve in all our ministries today. The deeper meaning of the word "wine," is the needs (problems) of the people we serve. In the same spirit of the Motherhood of Mary, we minister to others. We serve in 68 schools in the Eastern African region. In most of these schools the biggest percentage of the students cannot afford to pay their tuition and some other necessities of life, but we cannot send them away. We struggle to help them. The truth is that we cannot meet all their needs. We endeavor to help them until there is nothing remaining in our capacity. That is why we feel indebted to you, people of goodwill, who support us in loving, caring, and looking after these children. You help us in our struggle to be the good mothers that we are called to be towards these students.

We serve in 68 schools in the Eastern African region. In most of these schools the biggest percentage of the students cannot afford to pay their tuition and some other necessities of life, but we cannot send them away.

Whatever you contribute makes a great impact in their lives. Their future is brightened by the education you give to them that subsequently may touch others in our society too!

For "we are, because you are," in other words, you help us to be (African Philosophy by John Mbiti) which is reflected much in Mt 25:40 – Whatsoever you do to the least of those people, you do it to God.

May God bless you abundantly!

Once again, I say thank you so much, - ***mwebale nnyobannaffe.. . .***

Sr. Jane Frances Nabakaawa, DM

**The enrollment at St. Aloysius is now
414 Students!**

Thank you for your support!





Maria

Meet Maria! Maria hopes to become a pianist and maybe a Gospel music composer. She is able to take piano lessons at school. Enjoy her letter: *My dear sponsors, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I am now writing to thank you so much for all that you have done for me ever since I started school here in 2022. My family is God fearing whereby we are eight children born of the same mother and father. I am the third from the end. My family consists of two boys and six girls.*

Our mother is now a single mother who struggles to raise us up. If I didn't have this scholarship for secondary school, I would be helping my mother with chores, digging in our gardens, and maybe I would start knitting items like doormats and weaving baskets and mats in order to make money for my family.

I would like to tell you that if it was not for you, I would not have been here for my studies. I pledge to do my best, such that I complete my studies successfully and help my mother as her daughter with an education.

May God bless you in all that you do... . Maria



An update on Claire, one of our first scholarship recipients in 2016! With no parents to support her, Claire was so grateful for her scholarship to finish high school. Now, with the help of some scholarships, loans, and small benefactor help, she is beginning her fifth year in medical school. She writes, *I'm in a place called Ishaka in Bushenyi district, near Mbarara city. I would like to take this chance in time to thank you so much for the big sacrificial support you give to St. Aloysius. You continue to help girls like me who have big dreams but no money. I will always remember you. It means a lot to me and to my training now that I have started my fifth year. This will be my most demanding time! Thank you again more and more for walking this journey with me.*



Claire



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.