

# Uganda Girls Project



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

## A message from St. Mary by the Sea . . . Uganda Team. . . September 2, 2023

I was asked the question this summer, "Why are we working so hard to help educate girls in Uganda?"

For those of us that have heard the stories and seen pictures that have been shared with us by the Daughters of Mary Sisters, it is an easy question to answer because our hearts have been touched by these girls and the Holy Spirit has called us to help.

Others might like to read some facts:

\* According to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, around half of the girls in Uganda in 2018, between the ages of 15 and 24 are illiterate and four in five girls do not attend high school. While the Ugandan education system has progressed, poverty and cultural customs are a huge factor in discouraging girls to get a high school education.

\*40 percent of girls are married before the age of 18 and in Uganda, teenage pregnancy rates are some of the highest in the world. Some girls are forced to marry, especially in poorer areas, for a bride price. Education for girls is not necessary to increase the value of the girl child.

There is so much research material available online, please look at some of the articles available. This is one example: [Girls Education in Uganda | GlobeMed at Northwestern University](#)

**\*We are making a difference, one girl at a time! We are helping to improve the lives of girls who want an education!\***

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

Greetings from St. Aloysius Bwanda. . . .



Thank you to the entire team of St. Mary by the Sea and all the many donors who have sponsored our girls! We have recently received your wired deposit into our St. Aloysius account of over \$5000 which is so greatly appreciated and needed. Your selfless act of generosity had not only made a difference in the lives of our students on your scholarship program, but it has also inspired us to continue working towards our commitment to provide education to every child here who is in need. Our commitment is reaffirmed by your kindness. Thank you once again for your unwavering support. May God continually bless you.

As of 18 August, we have officially ended term two which started on the 27th of May. It has indeed been a long term with a lot of activities like celebrating our school feast day, St. Aloysius, and participating in the Music Festival where our girls emerged the best at deanery level and third at the diocese level.

The teachers have fully taught and assessed the girls following the guidelines from the Ministry of Education and the national curriculum. The candidates have lately done two sets of mock exams in preparation for their final exams and soon they are to come back for extra teaching where we hope to invite resource persons to guide them on the proper question/ answer approach in different subjects as they also do revisions on the mock essay papers for better preparations of their final national exams. Remember that we are still catching up on missed class time due to Covid issues.

This year we have 76 candidates in S4 who will be testing to receive their normal certificates, and 26 candidates in S.6 that will be testing to graduate with their high school diplomas. Let us continue to pray for them !

Thank you so much once again for all the support that has enabled us to run and successfully complete our second term.

May God bless you in all your endeavors!

*Sister Maria Theresa, Principal*

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which has enabled us  
to complete our second term!**

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**(The girls here have traveled to Mbarra University of Science and Technology for a special biology seminar. The 3 girls on the right are scholarship recipients!)**





**Heading to work in the school farm fields.**



**Dressed to work in the school farm fields.**



**Many of our girls become excellent speech makers and debaters. This is a skill that is important to have in village life and in careers. Students here are running for class officers and to be elected as class leaders.**

**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.**