

Uganda Girls Project



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

A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . . . Uganda Team. . . October 11, 2023

So far in 2023 we have sent \$37,491 to St. Aloysius through the month of August. Our goal is \$60,000 for this year. We have not been able to do any extra fundraising because of parish needs. We're hoping that, in this last quarter of the year donations will improve and possibly we can do some fundraising activities in October and November. *Michelle, team member*

From Christine, team member. . . I woke up happy early this morning thinking about writing this essay. We have been asked why we don't help boys in Uganda get an education too? St Aloysius is a school for girls and our relationship with this school is now almost a decade old. This school depends on us for scholarships. I believe if we help to educate girls, we are also helping boys as well, for this frees up parents who are then much more likely to be able to pay for their son's education. We also need to keep in mind that these girls we educate today will be responsible for educating the next generation of men and women, who will become the leaders of tomorrow! **Helping with scholarship funds that are generated by the community of St. Mary by the Sea and other friends is a Holy Moment to me.** It's a way that I can help a few families in a fashion that I can be passionate about. Maybe it is a very small thing but I am so grateful to be able to help students at this one little school and the families that benefit by having their girls get an education. I believe in the importance of education and learning and being inspired to share and teach. The desire to learn and help other people is paramount to me. I feel so lucky to have the ability to help others who desire to learn. Education is the only thing that no one can ever take away from us. Learning is change - life changing. Thank you to all who help with this project to provide scholarships. Your sacrifice and kindness continues to provide students with opportunities for their future and for their communities.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. . . .

Greetings from St. Aloysius Bwanda. . . .



After their yearly government exams, we gave the girls an opportunity to relax and reflect with a retreat! The topic was, "From a prisoner to a princess!" The girls have different challenges coming from their homes where sometimes they feel like prisoners, as there is always work to be done and always family needs. Examples are family food needs and care for the youngest children in the family. There is the worry for some girls of the never-ending concern where their parents cannot manage to pay their tuition when it is due so the student might need to drop out. Many girls would not be here at secondary school if it wasn't for the support from you, our sponsors. Now given a chance to learn, they can see opportunities. They can see themselves as princesses.

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Thank you, our sponsors!

Of course, the retreat master also shared with them his own experience. He was born into a very poor family, but God brought different people into his life to support him all the way up to becoming a priest. Now he is sought after to give retreats for students in our diocese. He encouraged the girls not to lose hope no matter the challenges they will face in life. The girls love their retreat time!

We continue to thank you, our sponsors. May God bless you for your generosity to us.

Sister Maria Theresa, Principal

**After completing yearly government exams,
the girls enjoyed much needed relaxation
and reflection time at our retreat.**





About to perform during the music festival



Our new Prefect (student body president) on the right.



Thank you, friends!

Weebale!
Thank you!



Sister's birthday!

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.