

Covid-19 News Bulletin

St. Aloysius Girls School, Uganda



September 14, 2021

A message from Sr. Immaculate. . . . Blessings to you, our friends from St. Mary-by-the-Sea . . . and beyond!

Our St. Aloysius community is still small from students being sent home because of covid, but there are rumors that the government might let certain students return. We pray this is true. We wish the vaccine would come to our area so we can all get vaccinated.

Today we are planting maize as fortunately our rains have started. I am so glad we bought as much food as we could when you sent us extra money last spring and then again this summer, because these days food prices, especially maize and beans, keep going up and are already very high.

I know that some of our students at home are getting discouraged and might be thinking of dropping out. Keep our girls in your prayers that they may all soon return to us!

Some of our students at home are begging me to come back to school! I really hope the government can open schools soon to save our girls from dropping out. We are trying to keep in touch with students through phone messages. Students, whose parents have smart phones and can afford data, get some assignments to keep the girls engaged with academic work. But the real problem is that we need our girls back in school learning and being where they are safe. I know that some of our students at home are getting discouraged and might be thinking of dropping out. Keep our girls in your prayers that they may all soon return to us.

You will never know how much you are helping us! Thank you for generously doing so much to help us. Your donations are our only support these days.

We have heard that your St Mary by the Sea quilt raffles to help support us and help Haiti have been a big success! I thank you for caring so much for God's needy families here and in Haiti who struggle with so many hardships these days.

.....Sister Immaculate



Early morning maize planting. We pray our harvest will be plentiful!



Sorting grain for milling. (Notice the restoration work being done on the building.)

From the team.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, a very generous \$25,000 gift was received to send to St. Aloysius this past summer! Sr. Immaculate was to use this gift for St. Aloysius as she saw fit. This help, along with all of your donations this summer, have been so timely and a true godsend!

As you have just read from Sr. Immaculate, the girls returned after their first shut down with very little of their tuition money owed. With the second shut down, incoming money for tuition has been zero, but Sister has bills to pay. There are 30 girls who are still on campus who must be fed and cared for during these covid times. Sister has also been attempting to give teachers and other staff partial pay so they don't starve. Remember how she very quickly was able to put in an alarm security system with our help this past summer? You will notice in the pictures that some of the buildings now are being restored and freshly painted along with some interior classrooms and dorms. Sister pays the neighborhood workers, often with food (maize, beans, and bananas), to do farm and school maintenance work. This helps many men to support their families.

During normal times, your donations (unless specifically designated for a certain purpose) always go into the St. Aloysius scholarship fund to be used for needy students. It costs \$40 a month to feed, pay for uniforms, provide dorms, and pay the teacher salaries, per student. The actual costs to provide an education have increased, but Sister has kept tuition the same as parents struggle to have money for school fees. Because of rising costs, student tuition no longer covers the maintenance and upkeep of the school. This special gift and all the generous donations received since school has closed are such a blessing for St. Aloysius.

Thank you all for so generously supporting girls' education in Uganda through St. Aloysius!!



The art of jewelry making!



Handiwork



Chicken manure sold so we can buy more chickens!

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 and mailed 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 Sr Immaculate, then wired to Uganda. She will use the money 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.