

# Uganda Girls Project



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

## **A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . . . Uganda Team. . . February 2, 2021**

In this newsletter you will meet John Paul—a seminarian, music teacher extraordinaire, tremendous support to the ladies and staff of St. Aloysius, and a wonderful tour guide! We had the pleasure of meeting and learning from John Paul while visiting Uganda during our 2019 trip. He was assigned to work with Sr. Immaculate, teaching music and helping out in a myriad of ways, not to mention keeping a smile on everyone's face with his delightful sense of humor, stories and kindness.

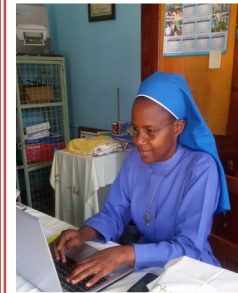
A man of many talents, John Paul also taught with the school for children who are deaf, located on the Daughters of Mary property, a short walk down a dusty path through the banana grove. He is fluent in sign language and judging from the warm welcome he received when we visited, obviously well loved by children and staff alike. John Paul was scheduled to return to the seminary for further education and to become a deacon this past year, but because of Covid closure, he was unable to return. None of these delays have kept him from continuing to do God's work in the most sincere, hands-on and joyous manner. (continued on back)

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

### **Dear Friends!**

Currently we have 175 students here at St. Aloysius which includes grade levels S3-S6. (For you, that would be 9th thru 12th grade.) The S3 students have not been here since they were sent home last March and it is fun to see that many of them have grown tall. Some have been able to be connected on the internet or phone to get assignments, but some have fallen behind.

They are all very excited to be back at school! We are trying our best to be safe with the returning students.



**Our S-1 and S-2 students will soon have missed a whole year of school!**

Our S.1 and S.2 students (Junior High School) are still at home. It is up to the government when we can have them return. They will have missed a full year of school soon which is not good! Our teachers here are doing very well and we are trying hard to ensure everyone wears their masks properly.

**Without your support we would not have been able to re-open. I can't begin to express the gratitude I feel in my heart for how you have saved us. Thank you!**

**Sister Immaculate, Principal**



**From our visit in 2019!**

**Dia,  
Sr. Immaculate,  
John Paul  
and Sophia  
at the school  
for the deaf.**



*Doing homework in the Grass Hut which we paid for. Girls are so happy to be back to school and they love this outdoor space!*

**Jackie**



**Seminarian John Paul**



*When Jackie got the news she was coming back to school, she was so excited that her mother asked her if she was being tortured at home! Jackie responded that she was missing school and life was good at St. Aloysius. She also told Sr. Immaculate that lack of food at home made tension for everyone.*

(from front page continued) . . .

In a recent *What's App* video call, John Paul shared that they were all well and none of the staff or students have been diagnosed with Covid! Despite the interruption in his own education and path to priesthood, he is happy to continue working at St. Aloysius with all of the dedicated staff and students. He never fails to express his deep gratitude for the support from St. Mary by the Sea and sends his best wishes for good health to our community!

. . . By Dia Norris, team member

**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.