

Uganda Girls Project

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



A message from St. Mary by the Sea. . . .

Uganda Team. . . There are times that we experience the feeling of not having enough hours in the day to accomplish tasks, but Sister Immaculate and her skeleton staff of 10 young women win the prize for marathon work! From what we gather, they now tend and harvest the maize fields, banana plantation, a mammoth vegetable garden, ground nut field, chickens, pigs, and three cows! In one more week their maize harvest will be completed, then they will start over preparing the fields to plant again. It's exhausting just thinking about all the work. On top of the physical work, Sr. Immaculate does the budget and paper work, has meetings, keeps in contact with her students, and has now been organizing their Covid response preparations.

Please notice the small picture of the large tote of tomatoes (back page). Sister said the girls were so proud of their tomato harvest. They sold them for 110,000 shillings which Sister said is about \$30.

Also note the picture of the two new truck tires which we helped them buy after Sister Immaculate's trip into Masaka to pick up bags of cement which ended up causing two flat tires and one very distraught Sister! I'm hopeful that not too much time will pass by before they replace the other two tires!!

A big thank you to so many who have sent extra money to help sister give her teachers some partial pay. Over \$7000 dollars has been sent by donors in the past three months to help sister pay her teachers, buy supplies, and prepare St Aloysius for the changes required by the government for reopening.

During this Covid time there are so many important programs that need support. The Holy Spirit is certainly working through all of us to do what we can to provide for St Aloysius and to help others as well. **Blessings to all!**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. . . .

Dear Friends! Yesterday we had a meeting for head-teachers and discussed the list of requirements for schools to qualify to open. Some of the rules and requirements are tricky. For example, the government says that in dormitories there should be **one** student on each bunk bed and that each bed must be 2 meters from the next. In class, students must be 2 meters apart! This is impossible for most of the schools in Uganda so this is a problem. Other requirements are not too difficult; such as, we can acquire thermometers, foot operated hand washing sinks in each classroom, library, staffroom, dining, dormitory, and of course for the toilets. We will try to implement all these requirements.

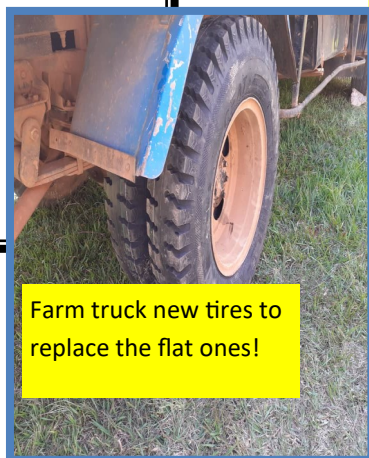
Some schools will have trouble re-opening as they are even more crowded than we are, especially the schools run by the government.

With your money we are making the changes we can afford as we wait for the decision to re-open. Thank you, friends!

Notice the picture of our hired workers making the new walls in our main hall where we used to have our mass and assemblies (back page). It will now become four classrooms to help spread out our girls for their lessons.

I miss my girls! They keep calling me to check on me and what is happening. They want to know when they can return. As I was traveling through a certain village, I checked on one of my daughters, Joan N, who lost her mother two years ago. I found out that she was not safe at her home. She begged for me to take her so I brought her back to school. Living with her four brothers and her dad who was not at home much was not a good situation.

Sister Immaculate, Principal



Farm truck new tires to replace the flat ones!



On behalf of all the teachers, history teacher Richard and Deputy Head teacher John Kennedy say, thank you to our benefactors from St. Mary by the Sea Parish for their partial teacher pay checks that they have received. **"I am desperate to feed and care for my wife and two little girls and your help means we can buy food and other necessities like soap,"** says history teacher Richard.

We pray to God with gratitude for your monthly support.

Thank You. . . .

WeeBale!



With your money we are making the changes we can afford as we wait for the decision to open. Notice the picture of our hired workers making the new walls in our main hall where we used to have our mass and assemblies. It will now become four classrooms to help spread out our girls for their lessons. No other gatherings of students such as mass and assemblies will be allowed. (Everything must be brick because of termites!)



Tomatoes to market!



The maize harvest and mulching the bananas. Hard on the back!



We work on the ground nuts every chance we get. Boiling them in salty water, they are so good to eat. We also dry them and then grind them up to make peanut sauce. (Joan N, our latest returnee, is the girl in the white blouse).

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.