

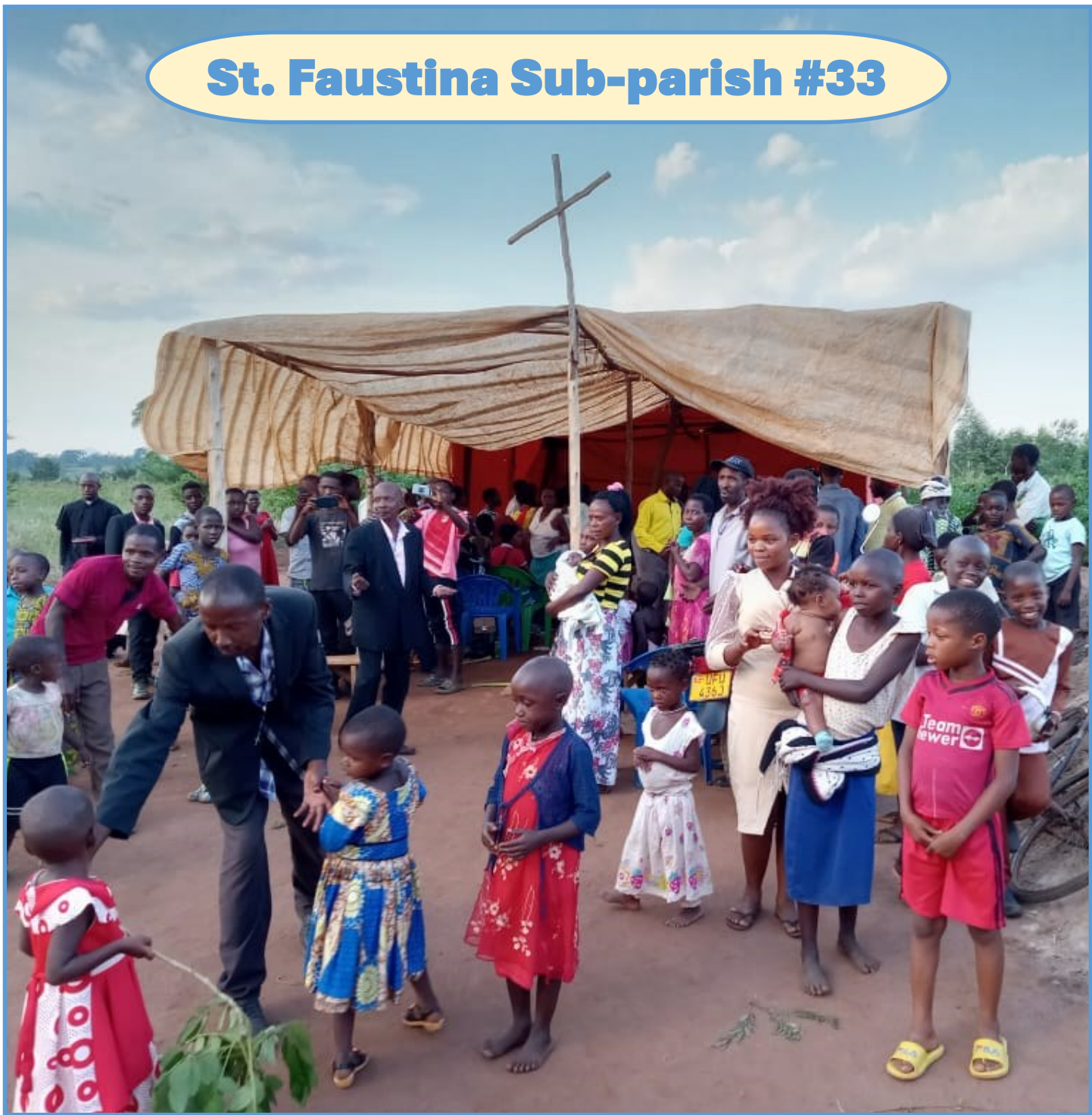
TRINITY TRIANGLE

Stewardship - A Way of Life

TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

Catholic Community of Blessed Trinity

St. Faustina Sub-parish #33





FOLLOW *The Lead*

FR. PAT SHEEDY

Third grade students at Blessed Trinity saw a small stick mud church from Sr. Juliet's village, Nalweyo, Uganda, back in 2002. Someone, it must have been God, inspired them to give Nalweyo Village a decent house for God.

Blessed Trinity parish took the hint and followed the kids' lead. The plan was to build a church for 300 people. That would take care of future growth also.

The Bishop of Hoima, Bishop Deogratias, got the news and he got involved and said the church had to accommodate 500.

Blessed Trinity parishioners jumped in and pledged to take care of getting the needed funds.

Bishop Deogratias came back a second time and said the church had to seat 800. He had a plan in mind – God must have prompted him – that we knew nothing about.

We raised the needed funds, \$85,000, and 13 of us went for the blessing of our sister parish church, Blessed Trinity, Nalweyo. But when we got to the church blessing, the new church had only walls and a roof and very little else. It had no doors, no windows, no pews, no permanent altar. We were asked to raise another \$80,000 to complete the church. We did.

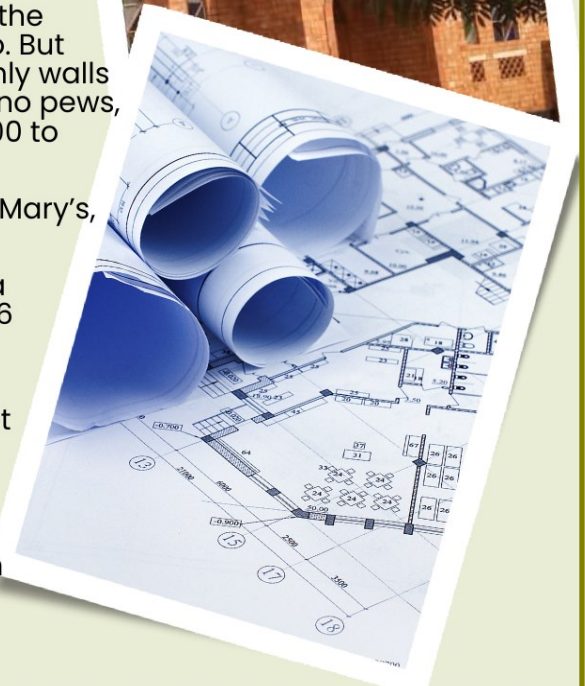
Nalweyo was just one of over 50 villages in the parish of St. Mary's, Kakindo which is about 15 miles away.

Within a year the bishop declared Blessed Trinity Nalweyo a parish, appointed Fr. Joachim parish priest, and gave him 16 other villages to go with Blessed Trinity.

Long story short, the Catholic community grew and grew, and then grew some more! Blessed Trinity Ocala people got more and more (and more!) involved and many from outside our parish also chipped in. Churches were built in each village which grew from 17 to now 33 (we just added number 33 this June). Schools were built or are being built in most villages. At present, there are over 8,000 students in all those schools. The primary school in Nalweyo (Blessed Trinity School) has over 600 students. The Catholic high school (Trinity Catholic) has over 700 students.

So now the 800-seat church is far too small. Fr. Charles, the present priest, seeing the obvious, has an architect's plan to put in a 200-seat balcony, move back the east wall, add a decent sacristy, altar server area, and storage.

We paid for the first church. Already under Fr. Charles the whole parish is organized and making pledges towards the expansion. The highest pledge is less than \$200. Most pledges are less than \$1.00, but all the Nalweyo parishioners are involved. Fr. Charles has asked me if our parish should get involved. I'm just asking you the question. I don't know but I am asking God. The total cost is \$250,000.



Everything I Am Is Because of You by Sue Primeau

These are the words of the refrain the children at St. John the Baptist School sang to welcome us for our visit. While visiting our sister parish in Nalweyo and all its sub-parishes, I was struck by the singing, its richness and glorious harmonies, and the heartfelt meaning of the sung words. In Uganda we were surrounded by voices, often unaccompanied by anything more than drums or the simple rhythms of clapping. These sung prayers created a spell, an air of excited anticipation, hope, love, and joy.

Faith and sung praise are in abundance at our sister parish and all her sub-parishes. Our annual visit is a sure sign to the students, families and religious of Nalweyo that they are not forgotten. Yet their need is so great. Those of us sponsoring a student do not see the struggles and hardships a family faces to provide their share in having a child educated. It takes hard won funds from the family to clothe, feed, and board a child. The struggle is made harder when it is a single parent or grandparent trying to make ends meet. We can forget that when we sponsor a child that our sponsorship only pays for that child's tuition! And while BT & TCHS Nalweyo continue to out-perform ANY other school in Uganda, three to five students are still having to share one book.

Students who make it to graduation are going on to college, university, or vocational school. Their dreams still need our support as they face the higher prices of continuing education, and their families strive to cover room, board, and book fees.

We are part of a global village and hopefully as we raise our voices in song we remember our sister parish in prayer, in donations, and in sponsorships. Let us sing in harmony with Nalweyo... Everything I am is because of You!



St. Helen's Masaka Tailor School had 12 in their first graduating class on June 26th. Prior to the graduation ceremony Bernadette Wall, Father Richard, and the town mayor presented each graduate with a sewing machine and money for starting capital. The graduates were grateful and pledged to be good stewards of all they had received.



At the mission Bible camp this year we had 30 schools present with at least 3,000 children in attendance. Our theme this year was on the love of God and love of neighbor, using the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Every year the children look forward to coming out of their sub-parishes, some of which can be very remote, and gathering at the main campus of Blessed Trinity Nalweyo to learn more about their faith. They enjoy Mass, music presentations, food, drinks, and at the end we give each school a certificate. We close the camp with games.



The people we met in Nalweyo and the surrounding sub-parishes radiate joy. They have very few material possessions, yet they live their lives with joy, faith, and complete trust in God's provision. Their love for God, Mary, and the Church is evident in the way they participate in the Mass.

Every Mass is truly a CELEBRATION. At Nalweyo, each Mass has a large choir usually made up of the high school students. In all the parishes there is always beautiful singing. They sing, sway and sometimes dance. One thing that really touched us is when they applaud after the Gospel is read by the priest. This is their way of thanking God for his Word. It doesn't bother them that daily mass is an hour long and Sunday Mass even longer. During the offertory they bring up whatever they are able. At communion they graciously

receive the Holy Eucharist with an appreciation that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine. The children, no matter how young, participate along with the parents.

In addition to the way they participate in mass, the children and youth demonstrate joy in their daily routine of chores and school. Every morning, we were awakened at 4:45am by the sound of the primary boys outside doing their chores. Later, once the sun came up, we heard the rooster crow! In the dark these children get up, sweep their rooms and shake out their futons. They have morning prayers and then they line up with their plastic cup and bowl for breakfast, which is like cream of wheat. While working at the primary school one morning, I noticed they are served the same meal for lunch. Each child washes his or her own cup and plate after each meal. Even the four-year-olds! After school, they wash their clothes by hand in a bucket and hang them out to dry on a clothesline. Dinner is usually rice and vegetables. On special occasions they get meat. Evening allows for some free time on the soccer field. The primary boys happily play soccer with a ball made of twine in bare feet. Following free time is more chores, designated study time, and evening prayers. The high school kids get up at 4:00am because they study longer hours. They study for one hour each morning before breakfast. Then each evening they walk over to the high school building for study hall from 7:00-10:00pm. They go to school year-round and they even go to study hall on the weekends. They are grateful to have a good education and a safe place to sleep.

Wherever we went we were greeted by crowds of people singing and clapping. Upon arrival, each door in the dorm had a large colorful sign on it welcoming the new tenants by name. We were constantly being waited on by youth and adults and given places of honor to sit. We would awaken to find young children on their hands and knees scrubbing the floor and stairs in our dorm. However, their gratitude and joy for our visit was best displayed by how they greeted us, "You are most welcome!"

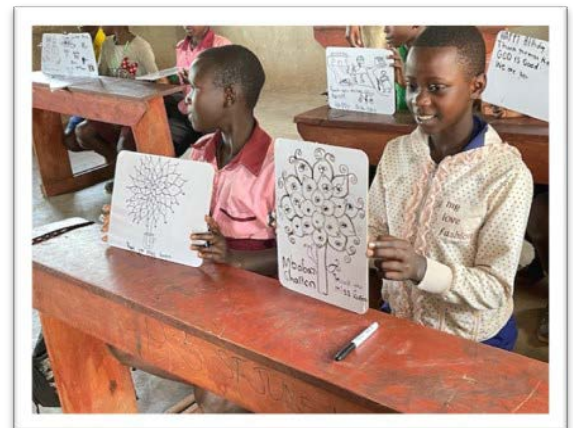
Hopefully we have learned by their example how to better live joyfully.





Currently, both Nalweyo Trinity Catholic High School and Blessed Trinity Primary School teachers have iPads to use in the classroom along with a classroom set for the students to use that can be signed out by the teachers. These iPads are fully loaded with apps that do not require internet and are appropriate for the grade level. Trinity Catholic has internet, but it does not have the speeds that we are accustomed to. It's more like the "dial-up" speeds of long ago.

We were blessed with the donation of 40 used iPads that were acquired from Blessed Trinity Ocala as they moved to upgrade their technology. Before leaving for Uganda, I updated the iPads to the latest operating system (IOS) and uploaded apps that do not require internet. They were distributed to 28 of the sub-parish head teachers (principals). I trained them on how to use the iPad since most had no idea how to turn them on, let alone swipe to access the apps! We worked on tapping home buttons, apps, and closing the iPad successfully. I concentrated on teaching administrative apps such as the calendar, setting timers for tests/exams, using the note-taking app, and using Safari to surf the internet. Some teachers have phones that can be used as hotspots to access the internet, but their phone system dates to the 1990's and early 2000's when we used to have to pay for data. Additional training was provided on educational apps for the different grade levels.



The computer (ICT) high school teacher and I strategized ways to introduce coding into the high school curriculum. We also worked on developing a web page for Trinity Catholic. The high school students love to come and ask questions, so I showed one group how to use artificial intelligence and how to design 3D objects using a free online program. The slowness of the internet does teach the students how to be patient, especially with this free program and the drawing pace! Before I left, the students presented me with a CD they made that included footage and information about the high school. They used the iPad to capture the video and an app called iMovie to insert music, titles, and transitions between footage.

The students in the ICT class are using computers we brought over to Uganda in 2017, which were upgraded from Windows 8 to Windows 10. The computers were originally used at Blessed Trinity, Ocala which makes them almost 10 years old! I am hoping to acquire newer computers to take back next year. God will provide a way! Please keep our ongoing development in your prayers. Both the students and teachers of Nalweyo are extremely grateful for what they have already. They continue to pray daily, thanking God for their sister schools in Ocala.

This year the students received whiteboards that were donated. The whiteboards will make it easier for them to complete their work. The teachers can pose questions and see immediate results from the students. It also gives the students the opportunity to draw, sketch and complete math problems with ease.

Toby O'Brien: Hello, I am a recent graduate of the Trinity Catholic class of 2024. This past summer I was blessed to return to Uganda for the second year. This time I came with my brother Josh and sister Clare. While on the trip we spent time at many schools in the sub-parishes. We gave special attention to one school, St. Joseph the Worker. Last year, Josh and I made a promise to pay for sports equipment and musical instruments for the students. After speaking at Blessed Trinity during weekend masses, running fundraisers at school, and sharing the impact that these gifts would have at a BT EDGE meeting, so many amazing people gave to help us reach our goal of \$3,000. Through the generosity of the parishioners and friends of Blessed Trinity, we were able to witness the joy of these students upon receiving their new equipment.

One morning during the trip, I, along with my brother, sister, a diocesan priest in Uganda, and the head teacher and catechist of St. Joseph the Worker, drove an hour to the nearest small city which had stores to purchase the goods. We spent the day in various sports stores and music stores purchasing the items the school had requested the previous year. After spending the whole day shopping, we sent the new items on to school.

The next morning when we arrived at the school, children lined the streets, waving branches and cheering us on. We got up and one by one revealed the gifts we had bought: soccer balls, volleyballs, jerseys, drums, and local instruments. Each reveal was met with loud applause, huge smiles, and laughter. Prior to our purchases these children had no balls to play with or instruments to learn with so everything was met with overwhelming excitement. It was incredible to see how happy they were for something that, in the U.S. may seem small, but to them was so special.

The children immediately began learning the instruments thanks to a music instructor while others



THE O'BRIEN REPORT

Toby, Josh, & Clare



performed their local dance for us. Afterwards, my brother and I played soccer against them with the new jerseys and balls. While we were losing to the older students on the soccer field, my sister devoted her time to the younger students. It was such a blessing to know that we played a part in a gift that allowed these children to have so much fun that day and for many days to come. Although I got to witness the excitement, love, and gratitude firsthand, I know none of it would have been possible without the support from generous people like you. Thank you so much for what you gave to these kids and for making them smile.

Josh O'Brien: Coming into this year's trip, I was eager to once again receive the hospitality and warmth of all the Nalweyo communities. Their generosity and kindness are the reason why I wanted to return for the second time.

Each day a group of about five people accompanied Father Pat to the four to five parishes a day that he needed to visit. Father Pat would go into the parish and meet with the leaders of the community, discussing the funds he sent them the previous year and what they did with it. The leaders would then tell him what they needed for the upcoming year and Father would sort out which needs were most necessary for the next year. While this was happening, the rest of us followed Sister Juliet and went to the school that was connected to the parish we were visiting.

Miles ahead of each school, we were greeted by hundreds of kids singing and dancing. Experiencing their continuous smiles and contagious laughter was so heartwarming. Knowing that they have very little, but they are all still incredibly happy was something to ponder. Once the chaos of the entrance parades settled down, the kids lined up into rows by grade and sang songs of welcome to thank us for coming to see them. Afterwards they went into their classrooms and we passed out school supplies, prayer cards, rosaries, and miraculous medals. We spent about 2-4 hours at each school depending on the number of kids enrolled there.



Being able to go back once more was incredible. The people were willing to take us in as one of their own and you could see how much they love and adore God.

Clare O'Brien: *Those with nothing, actually have more.* I learned this in Uganda, this past summer. What do these poor, very simple people have, you may ask? Not much that you can get at Walmart. But so much that you can find in the heart of God; so much that is recognizably the best of what makes a person truly happy, holy, and healthy. I felt their love even though I was a stranger, a minority, and a foreigner who came from the other side of the world and couldn't even speak their language. Despite all these obstacles, I never felt unwelcome, judged, or disregarded. Quite the opposite— I experienced far more community in Nalweyo than I usually do in my own country!

Father Pat and our entire team were repeatedly greeted with cheering, smiles, singing and traditional dancing upon arrival at each village. Afterwards, the people expressed their needs—a pit latrine (actually a hole in the ground to use as a toilet), a roof to escape the African sun, a water pump that allows people to stay home and work instead of walking 8 miles each way to fill up jugs of water. Through the generosity of the extended Blessed Trinity community, Father Pat has been able to provide for all of these needs and continues to do so each year.

Despite all of the hardships, the amount of joy that exuded from each adult and child alike was evident as well as contagious. Their simple lifestyle creates an unmistakable sense of community characterized by genuine care and generosity for everyone, even visitors like us. It is breathtaking and shocking. I knew they were poor, living on less than \$1 a day. I just didn't expect them to be so rich.



Where to Begin?

by Michelle Veale



When asked to write an article about my experience in Nalweyo, the question became: Where do I begin? I decided to focus on St. Mary's Health Centre. I have worked as a bedside nurse at UF Health Shands for 26 years. I have become accustomed to having every possible resource at my fingertips in a matter of minutes. At Shands, technology is top notch and specialized patient care teams, medical supplies, as well as personal protective equipment are readily available. I am so accustomed to the blessings I have at work that I take them for granted!

St. Mary's Kakindo is about a 20-minute car ride from Blessed Trinity Nalweyo. The Centre consists of a very simple hospital, maternity ward, operating room, NICU (neonatal ICU), outpatient clinic and laboratory. They provide pre and postnatal care, immunization clinics, and outreach programs. Dr. Marilyn Juricic and I had the opportunity to spend 3 days at St. Mary's. We met and worked with the most amazing doctors, Dr

Lawrence Kanya and his resident Dr. Bainomugisa Deogratus. We also spent time with Father Johnmary Mugabi, the Director of the Centre. These men share a great love for the people and a passion for providing the best possible care for the patients given their available resources.

The first day at the Health Centre, there was a newborn that had experienced asphyxia during birth and then experienced elevated bilirubin and necrotizing enterocolitis. The Centre had oxygen but the baby desperately needed a CPAP. Dr. Lawrence did his best to rig a makeshift CPAP machine using oxygen, tubing, and water bottles. St Mary's has no ambulance service and no way to transport patients with oxygen or monitoring to the nearest hospital 60 kilometers away. Ultimately, the baby was transferred and, surprisingly, survived the transport. But she died sometime after she reached the hospital.

While awaiting Father Pat's arrival on the morning that he was going to visit St Mary's, an emergency arrived. A boda boda (moped-like motorcycle) with three passengers rode right up to the reception area of the clinic. A husband in front, a very limp mother in the middle, and a sister-in-law in back. The sister-in-law was there to keep the mother from falling off! This was a mother who had recently delivered her 7th child at home in her village. The mother had no palpable radial pulse, a very thready carotid pulse, and an unmeasurable blood pressure. We were expecting to have to start CPR. Fortunately, last year Father Pat gifted St Mary's with a CBC machine that allows one to get the results of bloodwork within minutes. Results showed she had very low blood sugar, low hemoglobin and hematocrit, and a high white blood cell count. I did not expect her to make it.

Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Juricic, and the nurse were amazing. She was given IV fluids with dextrose, blood, and IV antibiotics. They have no IV pumps, so everything is fed in by gravity. I was frustrated that the blood was being delivered so slowly, something a pressure bag could have easily remedied, but they don't own any! When we left that evening, it appeared the patient was going to survive.



PATIENT PERSPECTIVE

By Mary McGarvey

The Operating Theatre (operating room) does not have an anesthesia machine. They also do not have any resident anesthesiologists. Cesarean sections are performed using IV Ketamine. If a surgery requires more in-depth sedation, the patient stays at the Health Centre until an Anesthesia Officer becomes available to come to the Health Centre and assist. This could take days. While we were there, a young boy who needed a hernia repair was waiting for anesthesia.

While at St. Mary's I also participated in morning rounds with the doctor and the immunization clinic. Most of the medical supplies are for adults, but again, they do the best with what they have. One example was a little boy about 9 years old who was experiencing a sickle cell crisis and complete urinary retention. He needed a catheter to drain his bladder. Since the health center didn't have any pediatric catheters, they had to use the smallest adult catheter available. A pediatric catheter averages \$2-\$8 USD! This is pocket change to us! I quickly realized that lack of supplies also affected the immunization clinic. All immunizations given at the clinic, injections and oral, are from multi-use vials. In the US we never have to use multi-dose vials. Furthermore, they have no sub-Q needles. Any sub-Q injections have to be given with a small regular needle, with the technician only partially inserting it!

Nonetheless, the staff of St. Mary's continue to strive for improvement. They have a vacant building with the same floor plan as their Mother Baby unit. Their goal is to turn this building into a designated Pediatric Ward. Father Pat asked Dr. Juricic and I to make recommendations about what would be most helpful for the Health Centre. Happily, he agreed to fund an infant warmer, a newborn incubator, and a phototherapy unit. The remaining items needed to complete the entire request list—including an anesthesia machine!—total approximately \$33,260.

As Catholics we know that the Church is universal. Our "neighbor" extends far beyond those who simply live on our street. It is my hope that some of you will be willing to join me and provide the medical supplies needed to care for these most vulnerable children and newborns. ***And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* (Matt. 25:40)** To help, please send your donation to the church office and specify that it is for St. Mary's Health Centre. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the itemized supply list, feel free to email me at michellemveale@gmail.com.

This year, I became unexpectedly familiar with the medical side and St Mary's Clinic when I became very ill, which required me to be brought to the clinic.

During my stay, I was absolutely astonished at the degree of care and attention given to me by Dr Lawrence and his staff. Even though the facility was simple with very basic supplies, I received expert care. Dr Lawrence diagnosed and treated my condition with professionalism and kindness. If I had to describe the experience, it would be like an old-fashioned country doctor's office. Dr Lawrence brought me back to Blessed Trinity and continually checked on me for several days thereafter, until I had totally recovered.

This experience prompted me to take a closer look at the clinic to get an inside look. They have hundreds of patients visiting every week, mostly children. Most of their medical equipment is for adults, resulting in many children left untreated.

Dr Lawrence explained that they are working on converting part of their facility to a desperately needed pediatric section, so they can better accommodate these most vulnerable patients. As challenging as this would be, he is confident that with the proper equipment and support, hundreds of babies could be saved.

Although it was difficult to see at the time, God's plan all along was to use my experience to open the eyes of my heart, so the cries of these children could be heard. ***If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. (Psalm 95: 7)*** I have heard you Lord!



Medical Camp
by Fortunate Kyosaba

I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous sponsorship of our recent medical camp held in June 2024. Your support was instrumental in making this event a resounding success.

During the three-day camp that took place from June 21-23, 2024, we were able to serve over 1,246 patients, addressing a wide range of medical conditions. Among the conditions we managed included; malaria, pneumonia, malnutrition, hypertension, diabetes, sickle cell disease, typhoid, peptic ulcer disease, urinary tract infections, allergies, and several patients with neuropathies.

We were able to work with an Optician who served quite a number of patients that were in need. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Dunn for the great work he did with the Dental Clinic. Indeed, many patients needed that clinic!

In a special way, we would like to thank the team from Uganda Rural Development Training Center (URDT) Kagadi who joined us and helped screen about 200 mothers for cervical cancer.

Thanks to your funding, we provided essential medical care to individuals who might not otherwise have had access to such services. The impact of this camp was profound, as it not only alleviated immediate health concerns but also contributed to the long-term well-being of the community. Through interactive sessions, we educated the local community on various preventive healthcare practices. This included topics such as hygiene, nutrition, family planning, chronic diseases and disease prevention. Empowering them with this knowledge, we aimed to create lasting change and improve overall health outcomes.

We remain committed to our goal of improving healthcare in our community, and we sincerely hope that you will continue to support our future initiatives.

MEDICAL CAMP EXPENDITURE REPORT

DESCRIPTION	SHILLINGS	US DOLLARS*
Medicine	8,860,000	\$2,387.43
Lab Diagnostics	1,760,000	\$474.25
Volunteer - Expenses	5,349,000	\$1,441.35
Tents	1,150,000	\$309.88
Optician Expenses	450,000	\$121.26
Misc Supplies	630,000	\$169.76
TOTAL :	18,199,000	\$4,903.93

**Exchange rate as of 8/30/2024*



HURDLING THE OBSTACLES

After my experience during the 2022 mission trip, I felt confident that I could pack the right equipment and supplies, and better understood the dentistry needed in Nalweyo. I even went all out and purchased a top-of-the-line compact mobile dental unit. This was a thing of beauty! It had a high-speed electric dental drill, a piezo electric scaler for cleaning teeth, and it even contained a built-in high-speed suction unit. I packed better this time - no extraneous supplies - just the basics. I had my IT tech do a test run on the x-ray computer program, and it passed. I also purchased another lightweight mobile dental chair, anticipating that the one I left in Nalweyo 2 years ago might not be there!

Well, you can't count on everything going smoothly. The night before departure, I was trying out my laptop with the digital x-ray program and the laptop battery died at 10pm! I was determined to bring the x-ray equipment regardless in the hopes of finding a battery in the airport or somewhere along the way.

A week before departure the plan was that the group would be loading the bus on Saturday at 4:30 pm. Saturday morning a text message went out that the bus would be loading early due to forecasted heavy rain. I didn't get the message, and when I arrived there was no bus. I was caught in the forecasted downpour, soaking me and my equipment. Luckily, the bus driver found me! We loaded my 4 suitcases and the large dental chair on the bus.

Upon arrival in Uganda, I couldn't locate the suitcase with my clothes! My trusty assistant, Pasco, drove his motorcycle to Hoima and bought clothes and a computer battery. The clothes had Chinese writing and we were speculating what it said. Turns out it was an ad for a diabetic clinic! The lady that ran the kitchen, Judith, made me a scrub top. I did not locate my clothing suitcase until I returned to the States. If I had to lose a suitcase, I'm glad it was my clothes rather than the dental supplies!

Now the good news! We treated over 120 patients. The procedures included lots of cleanings, extractions, fillings, and even some cosmetic cases! The assistants were fantastic. I had a 4th year Uganda dental student who made the system run smoothly and handled the patients trying to cut in line! And the volunteer assistants, Keith, Patti and Toby, were very helpful and were very gracious. The equipment was a vast improvement over the last trip. Nothing blew up or was incapacitated.

It was a great trip. We accomplished a lot and met the needs of many patients. And every experience gives me a chance to provide better treatment for the next trip.



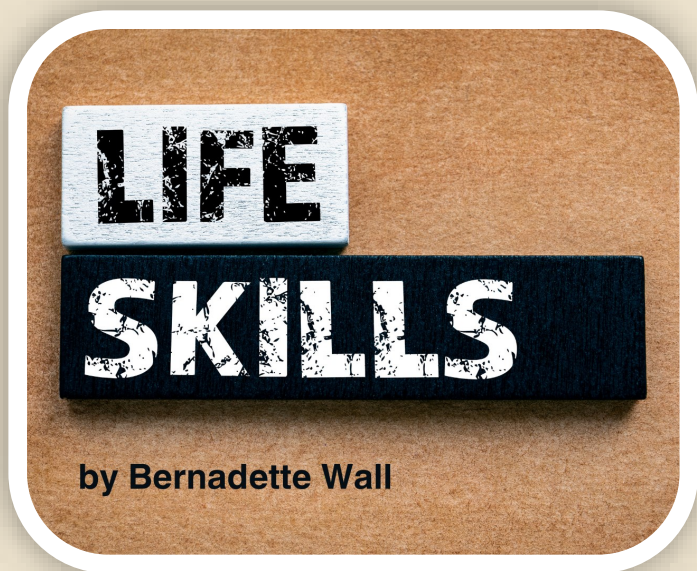
Dr Stephen Dunn, DDS



To God Be *the Glory!*

by Marilyn Juricic, M.D.

It was a joy and a privilege to go to Nalweyo and see the impressive work that God has done through so many people over these last 20 plus years! Father Pat and Sister Juliet worked tirelessly to improve lives throughout Nalweyo and beyond. I was able to meet the orphan that I am sponsoring. We got to toss around the soccer ball, play, sing and dance. It was so much fun to be a child again! I loved daily Adoration and Holy Mass celebrated with obvious love for God and true joy in praising Him. Everyone was loving and welcoming. I felt at home! The needs are great, but I can see He is at work. I have no doubt God will bring to completion the work He wants done. I am so grateful to all who made this trip possible.



TCHS Nalweyo high school students are brimming with untapped potential. After some reflection on what I saw last year, I collaborated with the parish and high school administrators to present some life skill classes to the Senior 6 students.

Slowly but steadily, we are realizing that academic performance alone does not measure a student's ability to succeed in adult life. We cannot downplay the importance of good academics, but merely teaching Science, Biology, or Chemistry is not enough. Math, Algebra and Economics classes don't teach students how to effectively manage money. A holistic teaching approach that brings life skills to the classroom can help learners to feel more competent and prepared for the challenges life brings.

High school administrators and I prepared for many months, discussing the life skills needed by students in Nalweyo. The goal was to improve financial literacy and decision-making abilities while fostering healthy communications and interactions. With the help of Headmaster Patrick and Deputy Winnie, I presented the lesson plans to the teachers. Once the teachers read and studied the lessons, the teachers took ownership of the presentations with enthusiasm.

While there's no definitive list of life skills, the students enjoyed the presentations of Financial Management, Job Interview Skills, Entrepreneurship, Career Path Guide, Conversational English, and How to Write a Story. We received positive feedback on all topics, but students gave the Job Interviewing Skills class, especially the excellent role playing presented by the teachers, their top scores.

I was able to witness the life skills presentations for a whole day while I was in Uganda. It was exhilarating to see the student participation and the fun had by both teachers and students.

Constructive Thoughts by Fr. Pat

Each year as we live out our two weeks in our sister Parish, I wonder what I will write about this year for the Triangle. Before we are halfway through the mission several ideas come to mind. Here are 4 from this year's trip.

- We have built 32 churches. The Catholic community here is growing so fast that many of our churches are far too small, even though we built them with a lot of growth in mind. Presently under construction are the expansion of three churches to include a wing at each side of the altar. The expansion holds 200 extra people (in Uganda, 300 extra!) and makes the church stand out. Expansions cost approximately \$40,000. They are sponsored by an individual or group.
- A few years ago, a child was dropped off outside the hut of a family before they woke up. This family was introduced to us at Mass that same morning. They named the child Enoc. Little Enoc has two twisted feet that could be medically corrected. I asked his dad to get a medical commitment in writing from a doctor or hospital and we would pay for it. We expect good news for Enoc, who is about four, very soon.
- One of our Florida visitors said he was ready to sponsor a new church. I inquired with the parish priest, Fr. Charles. "Funny you should ask that because I wanted to tell you that your group is invited to a new village. Two days from now, we will go to where more than 200 people are organized and having prayer gatherings and Mass under a canopy once a month." Our new sponsor had a name in mind for the church but when we got to the meeting the people had 'St. Faustina' selected for their church name. I whispered to him, "What do you want to do now?" He answered, "I'm certainly not going to go against that powerful Saint!" We had a delightful meeting – as all of them are.
- All 32 churches have galvanized tin roofs. When it rains heavily, you can hear nothing but the rain. In the middle of our meeting with the leaders and the people of St Mary's of Mulinga, the thunder and torrential rain started. I thought, "That ends the meeting," but one singer immediately grabbed the mike and started to sing. The people were on their feet and sang so loud that they were more audible than the rain. They followed every move of the singer. When he raised one hand, immediately, all raised the same hand. When he went down on one knee, all followed. When he closed his eyes or bent forward, they all followed. This went on for 30 minutes until the rain ceased and then our meeting resumed.



There is never a dull moment during our mission. All our visitors, regardless of age, talent, or interest are fully involved. It is wonderful to behold.

A Dad's Letter to

His Extended Family

BY TOM HILTON



Hi! My name is Tom Hilton. I am not a member of Blessed Trinity Parish, but I am grateful to have been a part of the Blessed Trinity Nalweyo mission. My family has been sponsoring the St John Mary Kiriira sub-parish since its inception. I wrote this letter to my extended family in an attempt to gain more participation in sponsoring the sub-parish. In a very real sense the request is also made to you, the parishioners of Blessed Trinity Ocala! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or assistance that you may have. Tom Hilton 407-687-6560; Thomas.hilton.sr@gmail.com.

What is Stewardship and how does that relate to the Ugandan mission work? Stewardship is taking care of the gifts that God has given us. For God has created all things and blessed us with many gifts, but they are not ours - - - they are His, and He is trusting us to treat these gifts in a responsible and caring way. This means giving of our time, our talents, and our treasures that He has provided us, in service to others.

Thankfully, my wife Mitzi has been a staunch advocate of tithing since we were first married and she joined the Catholic Church. Even when times have been financially challenging for us over the past 40 years of raising a family, she has kept me strong when I would have faltered with the excuse that “we will catch up later”. In distributing our stewardship, the cause that has become the most meaningful to me is supporting Blessed Trinity Nalweyo. It is in this mission that I see tangible results of what our money can do whenever I am blessed enough to travel there.

What has been accomplished? The mission started out as a plan to build a single church, but this has grown exponentially. Father Pat often has shared that he didn’t have a grand plan to do all of this but simply had faith and an interest in where God would lead this. The main campus now has a large church, an adoration chapel, 3 wells, a rectory, a primary school, a secondary (high) school, teacher staff housing, lunchroom, guest house, 6 dorms that house 1,000 students, and many cisterns to catch the rain water.

Over and above the main parish, we have also been spreading the Catholic faith throughout the neighboring villages. This year, 2024, we started our 33rd sub-parish, St. Faustina. About 14 of the sub-parishes have individual sponsors who are committed to building out all, or a major portion, of the sub-parish. Two of our missionaries from Blessed Trinity Ocala on the 2024 trip have opted to become sponsors.

As we travel to each of the sub-parishes during our annual two-week journey, we get inundated with all of the challenges each sub-parish has. We work with the leaders to prioritize the work to be done based upon the budgets that they have put together. I have seen faith in action as Father has committed to getting things accomplished with each sub-parish even though he wasn’t sure where, when or how the money would come...but it always has come through the grace of God.

What we have done as a family: I have been blessed enough to take many family members with me on

some of my eight trips to Nalweyo. St John-Mary Kiriira sub-parish is named in honor of my mom and dad and has been sponsored by Mitzi and I with a great deal of help from my sister Joan.

How can you help? I am writing this letter to you because I have two prayers that you can help answer. First, I am asking that you pray about this and start on your own private journey towards Stewardship, treating all that you have as a gift from God, and using those gifts in a caring and responsible manner. Whatever your causes are - - - by helping others, you will be rewarded far more than you can possibly give. Malachi 3:10-12 says, **“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”**

Secondly, help me continue the good works we have started with our sub-parish St. John-Mary. Together, we can raise this year’s \$20K commitment to complete its outlined projects. If 100 people will each offer \$200 this year to raise the necessary funds, that will achieve our goal!

If you are interested in donating, you can do so by accessing the Blessed Trinity website www.blessedtrinity.org and selecting **Give** on the top menu bar. Choose **Give Online**, then **Uganda Mission**. Toggle the **One Time/Recurring** slider to **One Time** and type ‘For St John-Mary’ in the **Please specify (optional)** field so we can track our commitment. Alternatively, feel free to reach out to Katherine Baker, the Blessed Trinity Parish Administrator, at kbaker@blessedtrinity.org or 352.629.8092, ext. 3218.



This year’s mission was another success. We were able to visit all 35 sub-parish schools and deliver sets of new English and Math textbooks. It was great to hear from the teachers that the use of textbooks has greatly improved learning. The students themselves were so thankful to receive the new textbooks. You couldn’t miss hearing their cheers when they finally saw us coming for the highly anticipated visit! Next year we hope to be able to bring Science and Social Studies textbooks with us for the schools.

In addition, all the supplies that Blessed Trinity Ocala donated were handed out. These included religious items, school supplies, and sporting goods. The items were distributed to about 13,000 children! We want to extend to you our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations!



This year during our trip, our mission group made two visits to St. Jude’s church and school. On our first visit on June 19th, after they welcomed us with songs and dances, we distributed textbooks, prayer cards, pens, pencils, and sharpeners. We also brought white boards to the school that were generously donated by Karen Fleetwood. Two weeks later on July 3rd, we returned to deliver a statue of St. Jude that James and Mary Nealy donated in memory of Aileen Nealy. Father William Twesige, a Kakindo native, made the statue, which was approximately 4 ½-foot tall!

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